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Running Back
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The National Football League's Official Annual for 1987

SCOUTING REPORTS PAGE 5

Compare the strengths and weaknesses of each of the 28 teams and review statistical highlights of the 1986 season, broken down by division, in this comprehensive outlook by long-time pro football writer Dale Robertson. Also included is a division-by-division review of the 1987 draft, with complete listings of each team's draft choices.

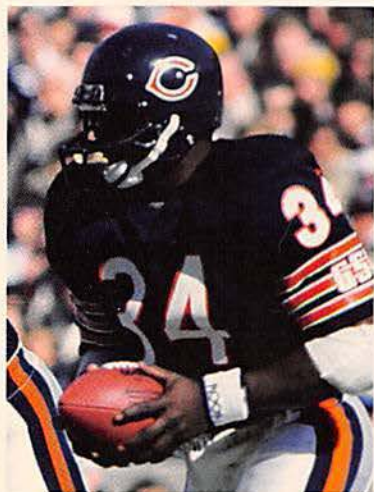


1986 SEASON REVIEW PAGE 79



Relive the Giants' first NFL championship in 30 years, from the regular season through the playoffs to Pasadena and Super Bowl XXI. Jim Perry's week-by-week rundown of games for the 16-game regular season and the playoffs covers all the teams and includes highlights, players of the week, weekly standings, and action photos.

PAYTON ON PAYTON PAGE 68



At 33, Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears shows no signs of slowing down. The leading rusher in NFL history ran for 1,333 yards in 1986, and, as usual, played all 16 games. Payton and writer Jeff Fellenzer sat down with some photographs from Payton's great career and relived 12 years of memories. What emerged was this remarkably candid look at a true superstar.



INSIDE

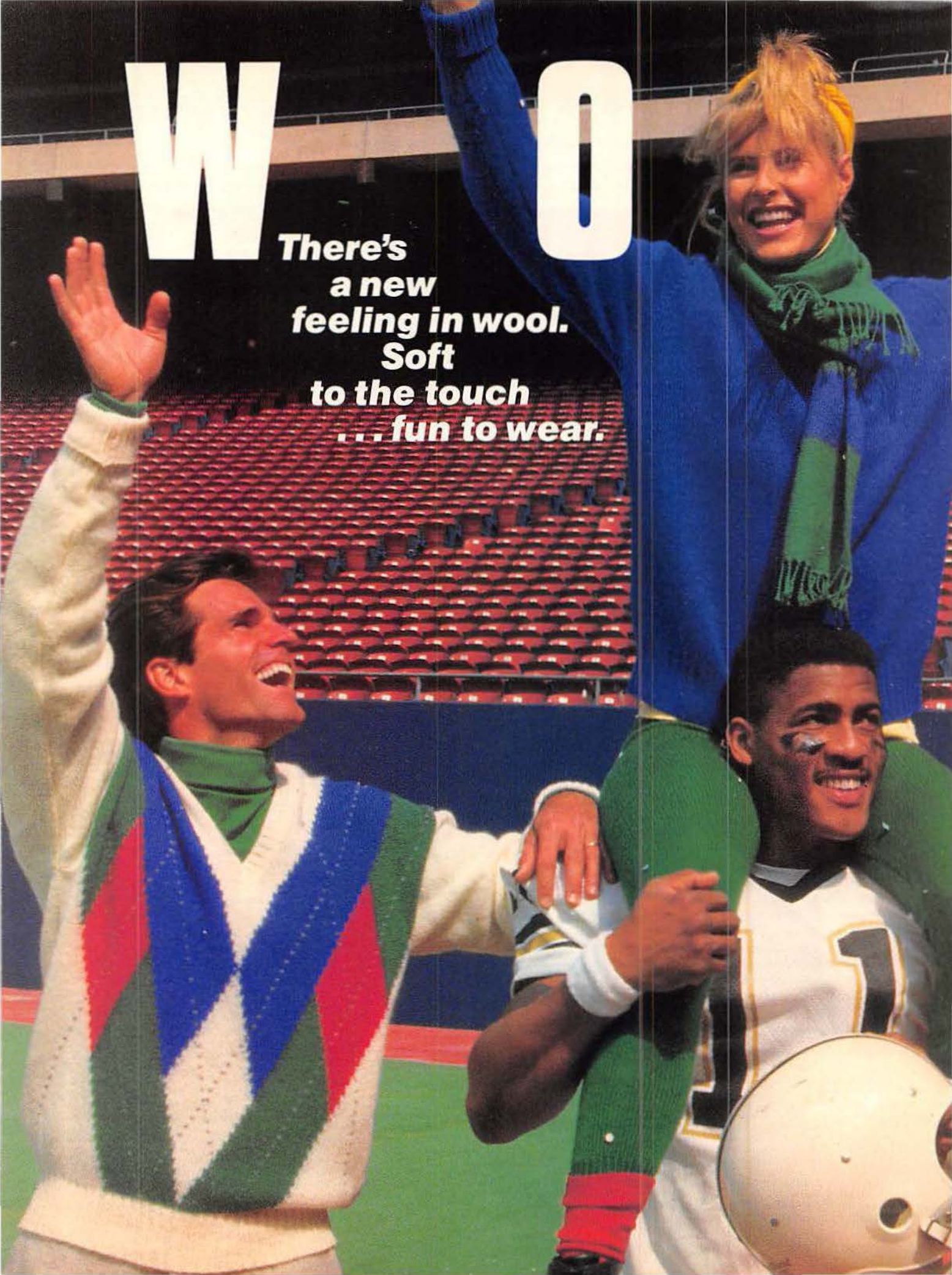
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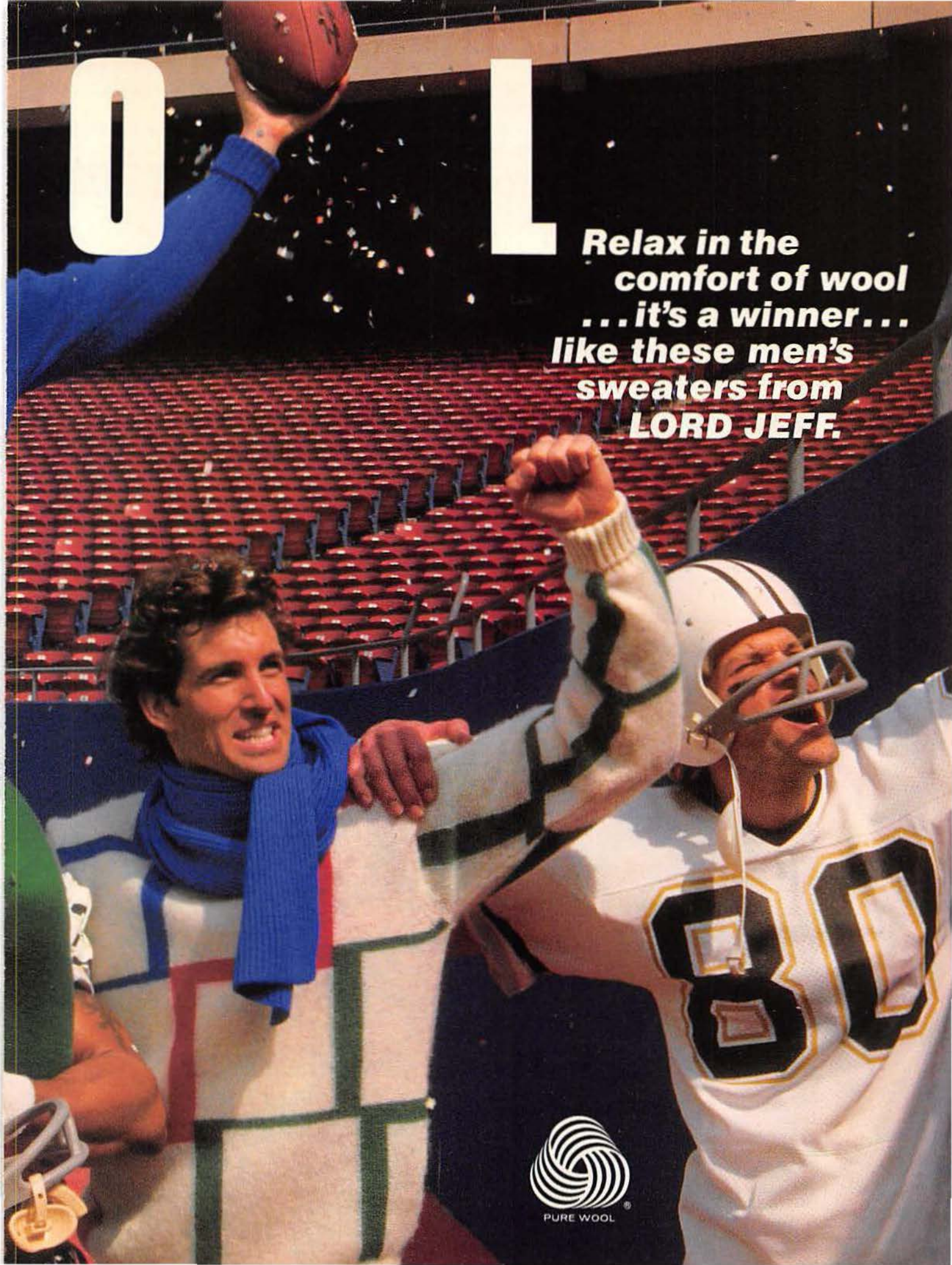
NO NICKNAME, NO NONSENSE PAGE 61

The Giants' remarkable defense doesn't have a nickname, but it didn't need one last year as it keyed the team's 17-2 march to the Super Bowl XXI championship. The action all starts with big and fast linebacker Lawrence Taylor, but he's just one of four AFC-NFC Pro Bowl picks in the front seven. Vito Stellino examines the men who built the defense and the men who play for it.

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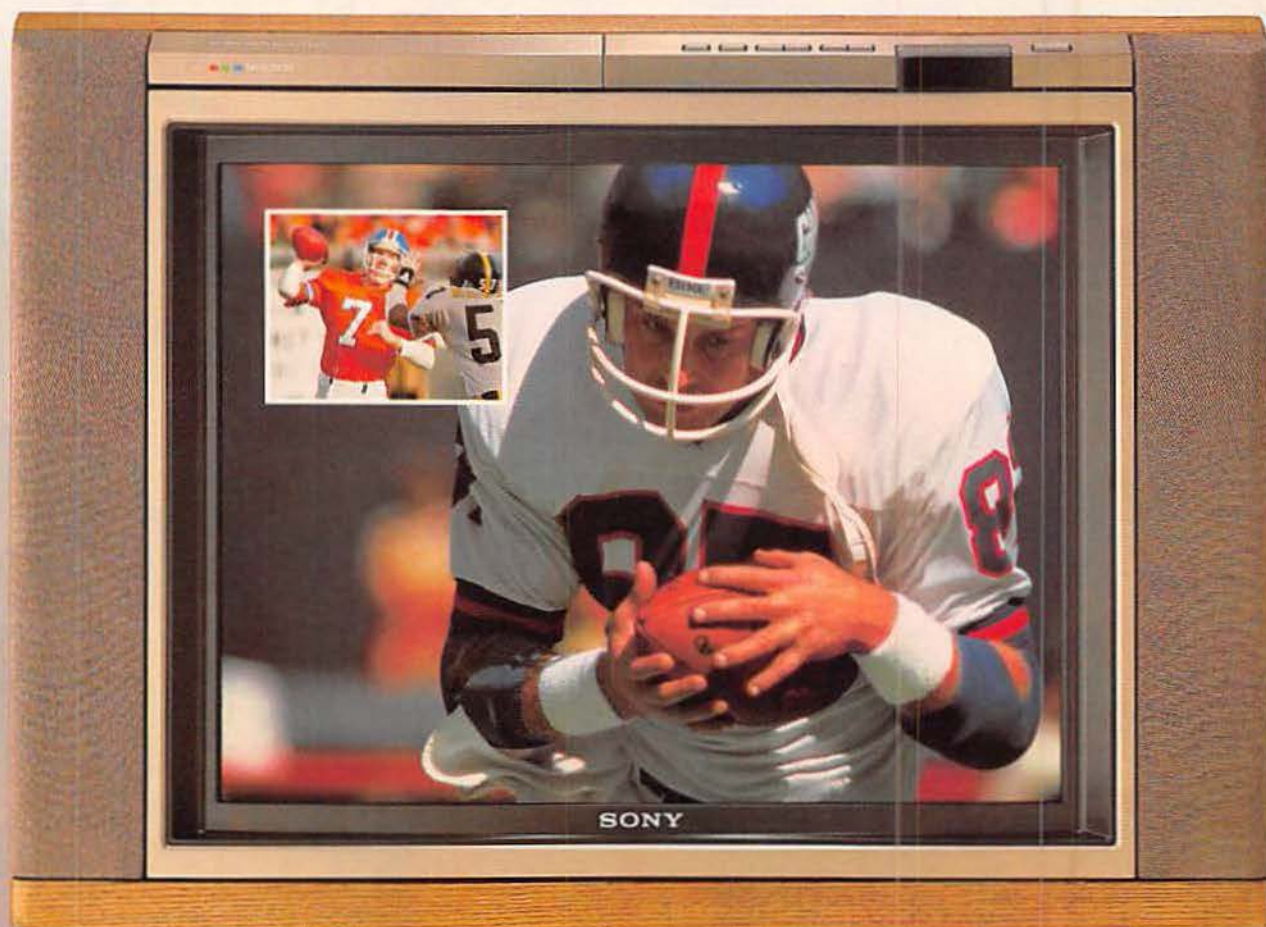
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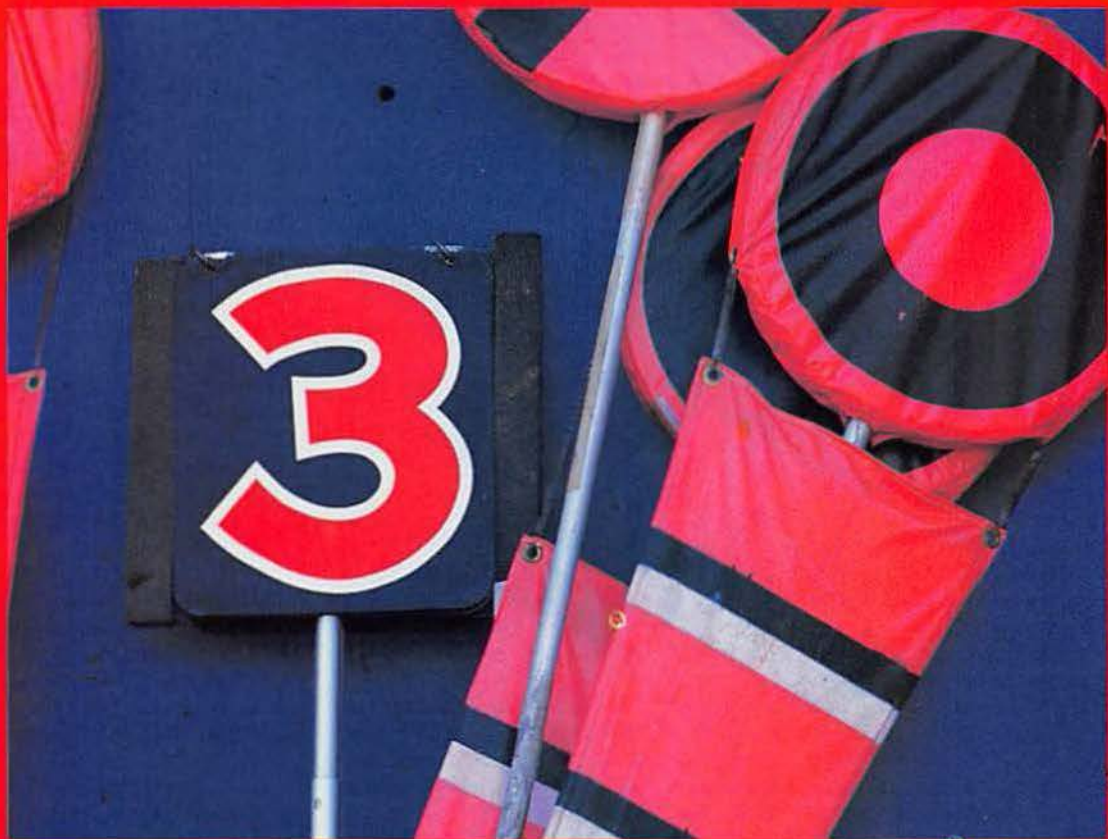
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PREVIEW: THE 1987 SEASON



Manny Rubio

Questions—and Answers!—on the NFL's 68th Year

Are the New York Giants the dynasty that other recent Super Bowl winners were not? • Will Jim McMahon be healthy enough to take the Chicago Bears back to the summit? • Who will emerge from the scramble in what may be the NFL's strongest division, the AFC West? • Is Cleveland the AFC's next super team? • Will Don Shula find a defense to match his offense, enabling Miami to challenge New England and the New York Jets in the AFC East? • Can second-year quarterback Jim Everett help the Los Angeles Rams vault past San Francisco and veteran Joe Montana?

On the following pages are complete scouting reports of the six divisions by Dale Robertson. Clues to the answers to the above questions—and many more—are here. The real solutions will come in September, October, November, and December as the NFL rolls toward Super Bowl XXII January 31 in San Diego.

EASTERN DIVISION



The Washington Redskins may be the second-best team in the NFL. Alas, they are also the second-best team in the NFC East. Chasing after the mighty Giants won't be much fun for any of New York's division brethren.

NEW YORK GIANTS—The easy part is over for the world-champion Giants. Now it gets really tough—attempting to live up to everyone's expectations for an encore performance.

Can they do it again?

"Who knows?" answers New York's newest hero, Phil Simms. "We're not obligated to do anything but try."

In the previous three years, the Raiders, the 49ers, and the Bears all won Super Bowls in resounding fashion just as the Giants did last season. Yet, each was unable to repeat as NFL champion, or even return to the Super Bowl.

The Giants clearly were *The Team* in the NFL in 1986. They won their last 12 games. They clobbered Denver 39-20 in Super Bowl XXI, after routing San Francisco 49-3 and shutting out Washington's high-octane offense 17-0 in NFC playoff games. New York had it all—a multi-faceted offense, a brutally effective defense, and an almost injury-free season.

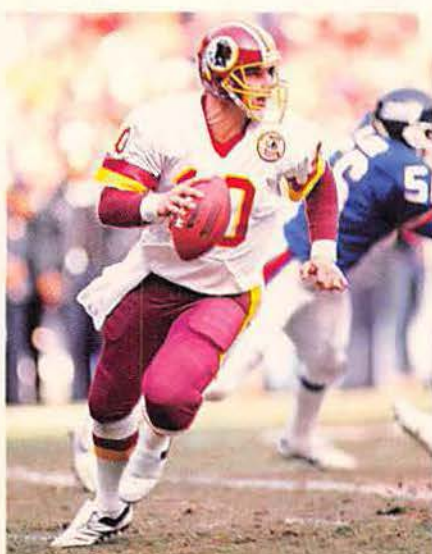
But the 17-2 Giants still weren't perfect. They could be stronger in the secondary and their wide receivers are only average. In the regular season, their passing attack ranked just seventeenth and their pass defense was nineteenth. These are exploitable weaknesses.

However, New York seems to have a better temperament for repeating than its high-flying predecessors. Head coach Bill Parcells is a no-nonsense kind of guy who figures to keep things on an even keel. And the Giants are a blue-collar team not prone to great swings of emotion or internal bickering.

If Simms picks up where he left off as a passer in his nearly perfect Super Bowl—22 of 25 for 268 yards, 3 touchdowns, no interceptions—and if Lawrence Taylor has a 1987 to match his 1986, when he produced an NFL-best 20½ sacks, the Giants will be hard to stop.

There's no longer any doubt about Simms's talent. Over his last seven games he threw 16 touchdown passes and only 6 interceptions; in the playoffs, his ratio was 8 to 0.

AFC-NFC Pro Bowl tight end Mark Bavaro was Simms's favorite target with 66 receptions for 1,001 yards and 4 touchdowns. In contrast, starting wide receivers Bobby John-



Jay Schroeder passed for 4,109 yards.

son and Stacy Robinson caught just 60 between them, although 5 of Johnson's 31 were for touchdowns. Lionel Manuel, Simms's favorite target, missed the last 12 regular-season games due to a knee injury.

The rushing offense was all Joe Morris and that was more than enough. He ran for a team-record 1,516 yards and scored 15 times, also leaving no doubts as to his credentials. Fullback Maurice Carthon was an excellent blocker, but ran for only 260 yards.

Most of Morris's yards came behind right tackle Karl Nelson and right guard Chris Godfrey, while the left-side pair of tackle Brad Benson and guard Billy Ard and center Bart Oates were the strength of the pass protection. Benson joined seven of his teammates at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

Among the other Pro Bowl participants were right defensive end Leonard Marshall (12 sacks) and gritty nose tackle Jim Burt. Left end George Martin, a 13-year veteran, wasn't honored, but he had a solid season.

The same can be said of left outside linebacker Carl Banks (6½ sacks), who came on with a sensational rush. Inside linebacker Harry Carson was another NFC Pro Bowl selection. Inside linebacker Gary Reasons completes a set of linebackers rivaled only by Chicago's in overall ability.

Right cornerback Perry Williams is the Giants' best cover man. Left cornerback Elvis Patterson runs hot and cold, but if free safety

Terry Kinard comes back healthy, the Giants will be solid in the secondary. Kenny Hill is dependable, if not fancy, at strong safety. Also on hand is cornerback Mark Collins, who started nine games as a rookie, when Patterson had a groin injury.

Then there's placekicker Raul Allegre. An emergency signee, he hit 18 of 19 field-goal tries inside the 40. And he kicked *nine* in consecutive close victories over Minnesota (22-20) and Denver (19-16).

There's no dropoff in punting either. Sean Landeta was an all-pro and was second in the NFL with a 44.8 average.

The Giants' entire package was awesome in its efficiency. The only catch, of course, is trying to maintain that momentum over six months of offseason.

WASHINGTON—Proving there is life after Joe Theismann and John Riggins, the Redskins beat the Bears, the 49ers, the Rams, the Vikings, and the Cowboys. But they couldn't beat the Giants—not once in three tries counting the NFC Championship Game.

Thus their 12-4 record (14-5, counting playoffs) went for naught. "We're number-two," head coach Joe Gibbs admitted. "I guess we'll just have to try harder."

They've got a lot to try with, especially on offense, where quarterback Jay Schroeder had a spectacular third year. Schroeder's 4,109 yards passing led the NFC and he threw 22 touchdown passes. Now he hopes to increase his completion percentage (51) and lower his interception count (22).

The Redskins were the only team in the league—and just the fourth team in NFL history—to have three 1,000-yard performers. Workhorse George Rogers ran for 1,203, scoring a league-high 18 touchdowns, to join receivers Gary Clark (1,265) and Art Monk (1,068) in the four-digit club.

Clark had 74 receptions for 7 touchdowns. Monk, the NFL's top pass catcher over the last three seasons, added 73 catches and scored 4 times. No pair of receivers caught more. And Clark was forced to sit out one game with an ankle injury.

Washington should have more firepower in 1987 with Kelvin Bryant returning to good

Little (5 feet 7 inches) Joe Morris was a big man for the Giants in 1986, running for a team-record 1,516 yards, and scoring 15 touchdowns, 14 on the ground.



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health. The former USFL star badly hurt a knee and an ankle in the second game and missed the next six, yet he still rushed for 258 yards, caught 43 passes, and scored 7 touchdowns in spot duty.

Up front, the Hogs are still the Hogs, except general manager Bobby Beathard thinks they are in name only. "They are not the dominating offensive line they were in years past," he said, seemingly issuing a challenge for 1987.

Left tackle Joe Jacoby and left guard Russ Grimm went to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, while right tackle Mark May may be their toughest, if least lauded, blocker. Jeff Bostic remains at center, with R.C. Thielemann at right guard. Raleigh McKenzie may get a good shot at Grimm's job despite Grimm's Pro Bowl status, but McKenzie is listed as backup at both guard positions. Tight end Don Warren caught 20 passes and is versatile enough to receive some work at fullback. The other tight end, Clint Didier, caught 34 passes for a 20.3-yard average.

The defense, which ranked twenty-first, didn't have a great year statistically if yards-allowed is the measure, but Redskins foes averaged fewer than 19 points per game, and Washington was markedly improved over the last half of the season. Individually, right end Dexter Manley and left corner Darrell Green both are coming off outstanding seasons, while middle linebacker Neal Olkewicz was a second-team all-pro. Olkewicz was the Redskins' leading tackler.

Manley came in second to the Giants' Taylor with 18½ sacks, left end Charles Mann had 10, and left tackle Dave Butz, a 15-year veteran, added 6. Steady Darryl Grant is the right tackle.

Mel Kaufman began the season as Washington's best outside linebacker, but he tore an Achilles tendon in the second game and never returned. He'll challenge his understudy, Monte Coleman, this fall. Rich Milot, who had his fourth consecutive 100-plus tackle season, flanks Olkewicz on the right.

Green (5 interceptions) plays left corner, with Vernon Dean trying to fend off Barry Wilburn's challenge on the right side. Alvin Walton, a starter as a rookie, will be pushed by Ken Coffey at strong safety, with 14-year pro Curtis Jordan (3 interceptions) at free safety.

Placekicker Max Zendejas, Mark Moseley's replacement, returns from a groin injury that knocked him out of the playoffs. But he could lose his job to Jess Atkinson, who made all six of his playoff field goals. Punter Steve Cox, the Redskins' long-range specialist, hit on 55- and 57-yard field goals and went 3 for 6 without an attempt shorter than 48 yards. Cox also averaged 43.6 as the punter, fifth-best in the NFL.

The Redskins have enough talent to win any division in the NFL—except, perhaps, their own.

DALLAS—Ten teams finished the 1986 season with a poorer record than the Cowboys' 7-9, but none of them felt any worse than Dallas



Newest Dallas star: Herschel Walker.

did after enduring its first losing year since 1964.

"We are at the bottom," head coach Tom Landry said. "We're not thinking playoffs. We just want to be a competitive team again."

For half a season, Dallas was competitive—until Danny White broke his wrist and untested Steve Pelluer had to take over at quarterback. A promising 6-2 start, which began with an opening-night upset of the Giants, was ruined by a 1-7 finish, the Cowboys' poorest stretch drive since 1961, the club's second year of existence.

Losing White, who was experiencing a renaissance in the Cowboys' passing offense under new assistant coach Paul Hackett, hurt badly. White was the NFC's top-rated quarterback (1,157 yards, 12 touchdowns, 5 interceptions) when he went down, and Dallas was leading the conference in total offense, while scoring 28 points per game.

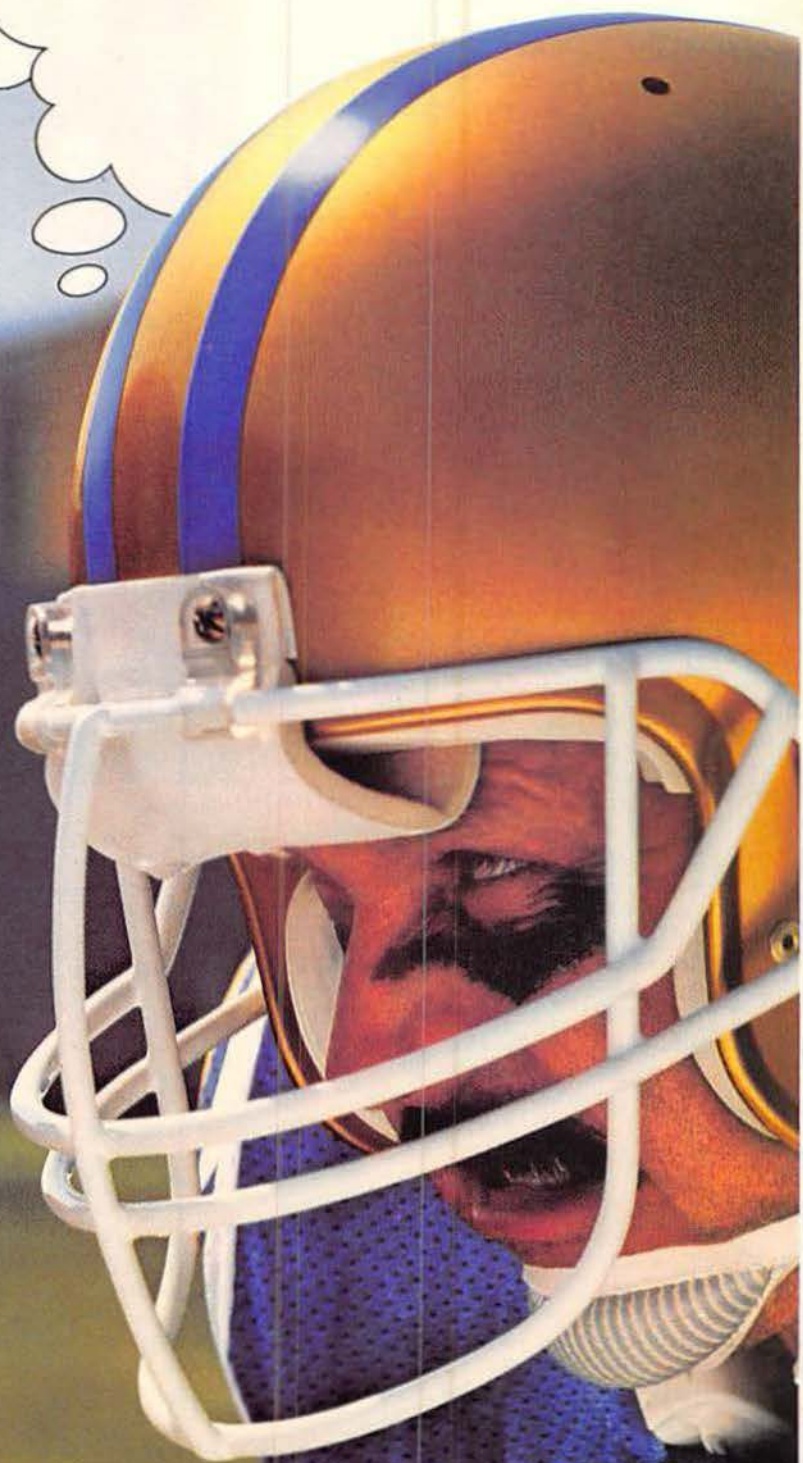
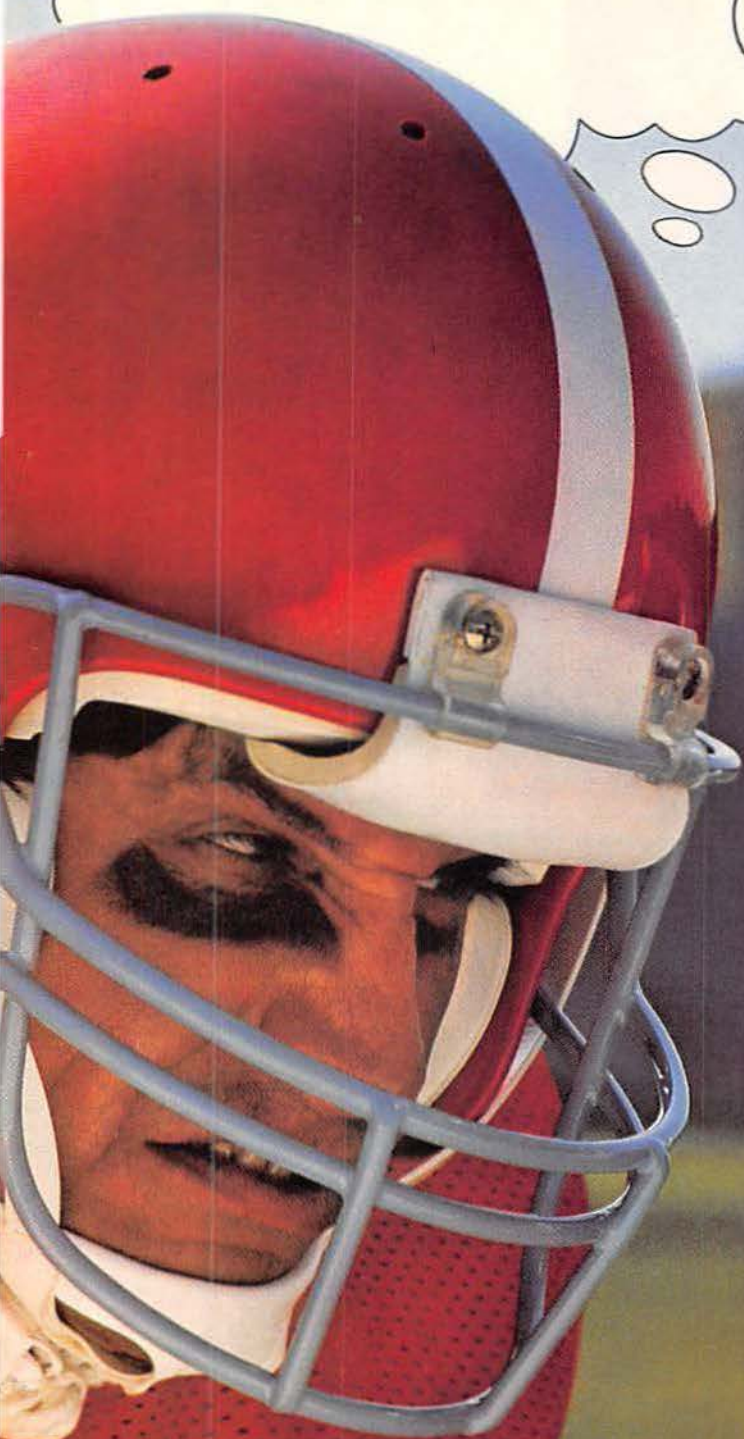
But also contributing hugely to the collapse was poor line play on both sides of the ball. The Cowboys were the pits in the pit, giving up 60 sacks, while defensively placing twenty-third against the run.

Pluses—and there were a few—involved

NFC EAST	New York Giants	Washington	Dallas	Philadelphia	St. Louis
Season	14-2	12-4	7-9	5-10-1	4-11-1
Second Half	8-0	6-2	1-7	2-5-1	3-4-1
vs. NFC East	7-1	5-3	5-3	1-6-1	1-6-1
vs. NFC	11-1	9-3	6-6	3-8-1	3-10-1
vs. AFC	3-1	3-1	1-3	2-2	1-1
at Home	8-0	7-1	3-5	2-5-1	3-5
on Road	6-2	5-3	4-4	3-5	1-6-1
on Artificial Turf	11-2	3-2	6-6	3-9-1	3-8-1
on Grass Fields	3-0	9-2	1-3	2-1	1-3
Points (NFL Rank)	23.2 (8)	23.0 (9)	21.6 (14)	16.0 (24)	13.6 (28)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	14.8 (2)	18.5 (9)	21.1 (18)	19.5 (12)	21.9 (21)
Yards (NFL Rank)	336.1 (10)	350.1 (5)	342.1 (6)	283.9 (25)	281.4 (26)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	297.3 (2)	331.1 (21)	311.6 (10)	326.5 (17)	304.0 (4)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	140.3 (6)	108.3 (17)	123.1 (11)	125.1 (9)	111.7 (14)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	80.3 (1)	112.8 (14)	137.5 (23)	124.3 (19)	139.2 (25)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	195.8 (17)	241.8 (6)	219.1 (12)	158.8 (26)	169.8 (22)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	217.1 (19)	218.3 (20)	174.1 (3)	202.2 (14)	164.8 (1)
Turnover +/− (NFL Rank)	+ 11 (6)	− 4 (17)	− 6 (18)	+ 9 (77)	− 7 (19)

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Malcolm Emmons

Reggie White: 18 sacks for Eagles.

newcomers Herschel Walker and Mike Sherard, and a stout pass defense, the NFL's third-best.

Walker, formerly of the USFL, signed at the end of training camp, then went on to run and catch passes for 1,574 yards despite an ankle sprain. He rushed for 737, scoring 12 touchdowns, and caught 76 passes for 837 more.

How he fits in with Tony Dorsett remains to be seen. Dorsett, who had a bad ankle, gained a career-low (except for the strike-shortened 1982 season) 748 yards with Walker sharing the load; strategically, they don't mesh well. It's a dilemma for Landry, but at least it's a pleasant one.

Fixing the offensive line is Landry's top priority. Veteran right tackle Jim Cooper retired, but his backup, Phil Pozderac, had been benched for a series of mistakes. Veteran center Tom Rafferty also tailed off badly at the end of the season. But guards Glen Titensor and Crawford Ker played decently and Mark Tuinei seems to be the left tackle of the future.

Although a shortage of depth persists at wide receiver, Sherrard definitely provided quality. Despite not starting until Thanksgiving, he had 41 receptions for 744 yards (18.1 per catch) and 5 touchdowns. Tony Hill had 49 catches.

Doug Cosbie (28 catches) remains the tight end, but Thornton Chandler, a better blocker, is pushing him. Cosbie also could be used as a wide receiver.

Pelluer passed for 2,727 yards, but his 17 interceptions versus just 7 touchdown passes convinced Landry that White will continue to be his quarterback.

Veteran defensive linemen Ed (Too Tall) Jones (left end) and John Dutton (left tackle), may be pressed for their jobs in 1987. Kevin Brooks, coming back from a broken ankle, probably will replace one of them. Former all-pro tackle Randy White, 34, also showed his age, but he's in no danger of being replaced. He had 6½ sacks last season. Young right end Jim Jeffcoat, fourth in the NFC with 14 sacks, had a great start only to falter late.

BEHIND THE DRAFT

If the world-champion **New York Giants** had any areas that needed improving, they were wide receiver and defensive back. So they chose wide receiver Mark Ingram of Michigan State with the last pick of the first round, then landed super-strong safety Adrian White of Florida in the second. The 5-11, 188-pound Ingram could give New York a bona fide deep threat, while White was a bonus because he had been rated a likely first-round choice. He bench presses 420 pounds and runs a 4.42 40. The Giants then added another speedy wide receiver, Fresno State's Stephen Baker, in the third round.

Washington didn't have a first-round draft pick—for the sixteenth time in 19 years. But the Redskins used the choices they had wisely, taking Nebraska cornerback Brian Davis (6-2, 190) with their first second-round selection, then trading with the Raiders to get their hands on tackle Wally Kleine later in the second round. Davis's forte is speed (4.46 in the 40), while the 6-9, 310-pound Kleine has the size to become a perfect Hog, although he played defense at Notre Dame. Davis could challenge for a starting spot, while the plan is to bring Kleine along slowly.

Dallas head coach Tom Landry is a firm believer in a strong work ethic. His top draft choice, Nebraska nose tackle Danny Noonan, definitely is Landry's kind of guy. When Dallas called, the 6-4, 290-pound Noonan wasn't home. He was at the weight room, which he visits six days a week. The goal is for Noonan, a Randy White type, to replace tackle John Dutton as the Cowboys begin rebuilding their aging defense. Cornerback Ron Francis of Baylor, the second-round selection, also could compete for a starting job. He's only 5-10, but has a 34-inch vertical leap. Third-round choice Jeff Zimmerman of Florida, a 6-3, 322-pound guard, could add much-needed bulk to the Cowboys' offensive line.

Philadelphia head coach Buddy Ryan wanted a pass rusher. More specifically, he wanted Miami's 6-2, 292-pound tackle, Jerome Brown. Ryan said he was impressed by his first-round pick's 75 tackles, five sacks, and aggressive play. Poor pass protection, which resulted in a stunning 104 sacks, was a critical Eagles problem last season, so they used third- and fifth-round choices (they didn't have a second) to take Auburn center Ben Tamburello (6-2, 265) and Tulsa guard David Alexander (6-2, 281). Linebacker Bryon Evans of Arizona was picked on the fourth round.

St. Louis has earned a reputation for doing the unusual on draft day and this year was no exception. With rumors flying that veteran quarterback Neil Lomax might be traded, the Cardinals used their first-round choice for quarterback Kelly Stouffer of Colorado State, a 6-3, 215-pounder who passed for 2,615

yards as a senior. Stouffer said he had no hint that St. Louis was interested in him. And, although the Cardinals led the NFL in pass defense, they took a safety, USC's Tim McDonald, in the second round. San Diego State tight end Robert Awalt, rated best at his position by one scouting combine, was picked in the third round.

1987 Draft Choices

NEW YORK GIANTS		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Mark Ingram	WR Michigan State
2.	Adrian White	DB Florida
3.	Stephen Baker	WR Fresno State
4.	Odessa Turner	WR N.W. Louisiana
5.	Paul O'Connor	G Miami
6.	Tim Richardson	RB Pacific
6.	Doug Riesenberger	T California
8.	Rod Jones	TE Washington
9.	Stan Parker	G Nebraska
9.	Dana Wright	RB Findlay
10.	Chuck Faucette	LB Maryland
11.	Dave Walter	QB Michigan Tech
12.	Bill Berthussen	DT Iowa State
12.	Chad Stark	RB North Dakota State

WASHINGTON		
Round	Player	Position College
2.	Brian Davis	DB Nebraska
2.	Wally Kleine	T Notre Dame
5.	Timmy Smith	RB Texas Tech
6.	Steve Gage	DB Tulsa
6.	Ed Simmons	T Eastern Washington
7.	Johnny Thomas	DB Baylor
8.	Clarence Vaughn	DB Northern Illinois
9.	Alfred Jenkins	RB Arizona
10.	Ted Wilson	WR Central Florida
11.	Laron Brown	WR Texas
12.	Ray Hitchcock	C Minnesota

DALLAS		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Danny Noonan	DT Nebraska
2.	Ron Francis	DB Baylor
3.	Jeff Zimmerman	G Florida
4.	Kelvin Martin	WR Boston College
5.	Everett Gay	WR Texas
6.	Joe Onosai	G Hawaii
7.	Kevin Sweeney	QB Fresno State
8.	Kevin Gogan	T Washington
9.	Alvin Blount	RB Maryland
10.	Dale Jones	LB Tennessee
11.	Jeff Ward	K Texas
12.	Scott Armstrong	LB Florida

PHILADELPHIA		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Jerome Brown	DT Miami
3.	Ben Tamburello	C Auburn
4.	Bryon Evans	LB Arizona
5.	David Alexander	G Tulsa
6.	Ron Moten	LB Florida
6.	Chris Pike	DT Tulsa
7.	Brian Williams	T Central Michigan
9.	Ken Lamblotte	QB William & Mary
10.	Paul Carberry	DT Oregon State
12.	Bobby Morse	RB Michigan State

ST. LOUIS		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Kelly Stouffer	QB Colorado State
2.	Tim McDonald	DB USC
3.	Robert Awalt	TE San Diego State
3.	Colin Scotts	DT Hawaii
4.	Rod Saddler	DT Texas A&M
5.	George Swann	RB Miami, Ohio
5.	John Bruno	P Penn State
6.	Ilija Jarostchuk	LB New Hampshire
6.	Mark Garalczyk	DT Western Michigan
7.	Tim Peoples	DB Washington
7.	William Harris	TE Bishop, Texas
8.	Steve Alvord	DT Washington
9.	Wayne Davis	LB Alabama
10.	Charles Wright	DB Tulsa
11.	Todd Peat	G Northern Illinois

Right linebacker Jeff Rohrer emerged as the star of the linebacking corps and maybe the entire defense, but middle linebacker Eugene Lockhart and 34-year-old Mike Hegman were disappointing. Corners Everson Walls and Ron Fellows (5 interceptions) and strong safety Bill Bates had solid, if unspectacular, years. Walls's 3 interceptions were way down from 9 in 1985.

Free safety Michael Downs (6 interceptions) ran counter to the general Cowboys' grain in 1986. He had a Pro Bowl-type year.

Punter Mike Saxon, who averaged 40.7 last season, returns, but the identity of the place-kicker is in question. The Cowboys are looking for a kicker to replace Rafael Septien (88 points last year), who was waived after a guilty plea in a legal case.

PHILADELPHIA—Some people think Philadelphia took a big gamble in releasing veteran quarterback Ron Jaworski during the offseason and giving the job, sink-or-swim style, to Randall Cunningham. But head coach Buddy Ryan is a gambler by nature. If he's not worried, why should anyone else be?

What fourth-year pro Cunningham lacks in experience he makes up for with great arm strength and the fastest legs of any NFL quarterback. His 540 rushing yards (8.2 average) cracked the NFC's top 20, and he also passed for 1,391 yards with 8 touchdowns and 7 interceptions, taking over full-time for the injured Jaworski late in the season.

Of course, having a target like four-time NFC Pro Bowl receiver Mike Quick was a big boost. Quick, the most appropriately named player in the game, caught 60 passes for 939 yards and scored 9 touchdowns, serving as Cunningham's security blanket.

If anything, Cunningham probably tried too hard to find Quick and Kenny Jackson (30 catches, 6 touchdowns). Despite his mobility, which enabled him to run for 5 touchdowns, Cunningham was sacked 72 times. In fact, the Eagles gave up a shocking 104 sacks in all, and Ryan blamed the quarterbacks for half of them, saying they held the ball too long.

Even so, a serious weakness was Philadelphia's unstable line, which went through eight changes. Knee injuries suffered by center Gerry Feehery and right tackle Leonard Mitchell caused three rookies to wind up starting—Joe Conwell for Mitchell, Matt Darwin for Feehery, and Bob Landsee at left guard. Left tackle Ken Reeves was only in his second year, leaving nine-year man Ron Baker as a father figure at right guard. John Spagnola remained the tight end, catching 39 passes.

Keith Byars and Anthony Toney, the starting running backs, also were among the nine rookies and 20 new players on the roster. Byars showed flashes of great potential late in the season, leading the Eagles in rushing with 577 yards. But he must recover from a broken foot suffered in a minicamp last spring. Charles Crawford and Junior Tautalatasi are behind him. Toney, the fullback, averaged 4.1 yards on 69 carries.

Not surprisingly, Ryan did even more juggling on defense, trying nine different lineups



Cards' punt return ace Vai Sikahema.

in his quest for the right combination. The Eagles gave up 32 or more points three times in the first six games but allowed more than 24 only once the rest of the way, showing a grasp of the 46 Defense's complexities.

What stability there was originated with left end Reggie White, who plays both end and tackle, and left corner Roynell Young. White was third in the NFL with 18 of the Eagles' 53 sacks and earned most valuable player honors in the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl. Young had 6 interceptions and was voted the team's most valuable defensive player.

Strong safety Andre Waters also picked off 6 passes as Philadelphia had 23 interceptions and 13 fumble recoveries to finish plus-9 on the turnover chart, up from minus-8 in 1985.

Left tackle Ken Clarke (8 sacks), right tackle Tom Strauthers, and right end Greg Brown (9 sacks) join White in the line, with Seth Joyner, Mike Reichenbach, and Alonzo Johnson as the starting linebackers left to right. Garry Cobb, who can play all three spots, added 6 sacks off the bench. Wes Hopkins returns from injured reserve (knee) to reclaim free safety, and Elbert Foulis is the right corner.

Placekicker Paul McFadden hit 20 of 31 field goals, while punter John Teltschik averaged 41.6 yards a kick.

ST. LOUIS—Fourteen years as an assistant to Tom Landry in Dallas didn't prepare Gene Stallings for what he went through as the new head coach of the Cardinals in 1986. It's not a happy task trying to rebuild in the NFC East.

Stallings's Cardinals suffered through a 4-11-1 nightmare in his first year, the franchise's poorest season in the 27 in which it has called St. Louis home. The Cardinals, one of the NFL's most productive offenses only three years ago, finished last in scoring and twenty-sixth in yards gained. They also tied for last in interceptions and were twenty-seventh in takeaways.

But the interception statistic is somewhat misleading. The Cardinals gave liberally on

the ground, but their pass defense was the stingiest in the entire league, holding opposing quarterbacks to 164 yards a game and a 49.3 completion percentage.

This may be the make-or-break year for quarterback Neil Lomax after two subpar seasons, especially in light of the Cardinals' top draft pick, Colorado State quarterback Kelly Stouffer. Wide receiver Roy Green also had a down year in 1986. Stump Mitchell, a respected running back, has rushed for a total of 1,806 yards the last two years.

Lomax passed for 4,614 yards and 28 touchdowns in 1984, which, Stallings hopes, says more about his ability than his 2,583 yards and 13 touchdowns in an injury-plagued 1986 season. Green's numbers also were way down, but he came back after ankle surgery to catch 42 passes for 517 yards and 6 touchdowns.

The other wide receiver, 10-year veteran J.T. Smith, had his best season ever with 80 receptions for 1,014 yards and 6 touchdowns. Fullback Earl Ferrell contributed 56 catches.

Mitchell's rushing yards fell to 800, but he still averaged 4.6 per carry and he should feel stronger after offseason arthroscopic knee surgery. Ferrell, a double threat, also ran for 548 yards.

A stabilized line is a requisite for offensive improvement. Left guard Doug Dawson missed 15 games with an Achilles-tendon injury, and right guard Joe Bostic missed the last three with a knee injury. Rookies Ray Brown and Gene Chilton wound up starting at left guard and center, with Lance Smith at right guard, Tootie Robbins at right tackle, and Luis Sharpe at left tackle.

Doug Marsh (25 catches) is the tight end, but he'll get some competition from transplanted fullback Ron Wolfley.

Stallings is considering shifting to the 4-3 with Freddie Joe Nunn (7 sacks) as an outside linebacker, moving to defensive end. E.J. Junior would shift to Nunn's position and Niko Noga would take over in the middle with Charlie Baker on the outside. Anthony Bell, the number-one draft choice in 1986, will challenge for a starting job.

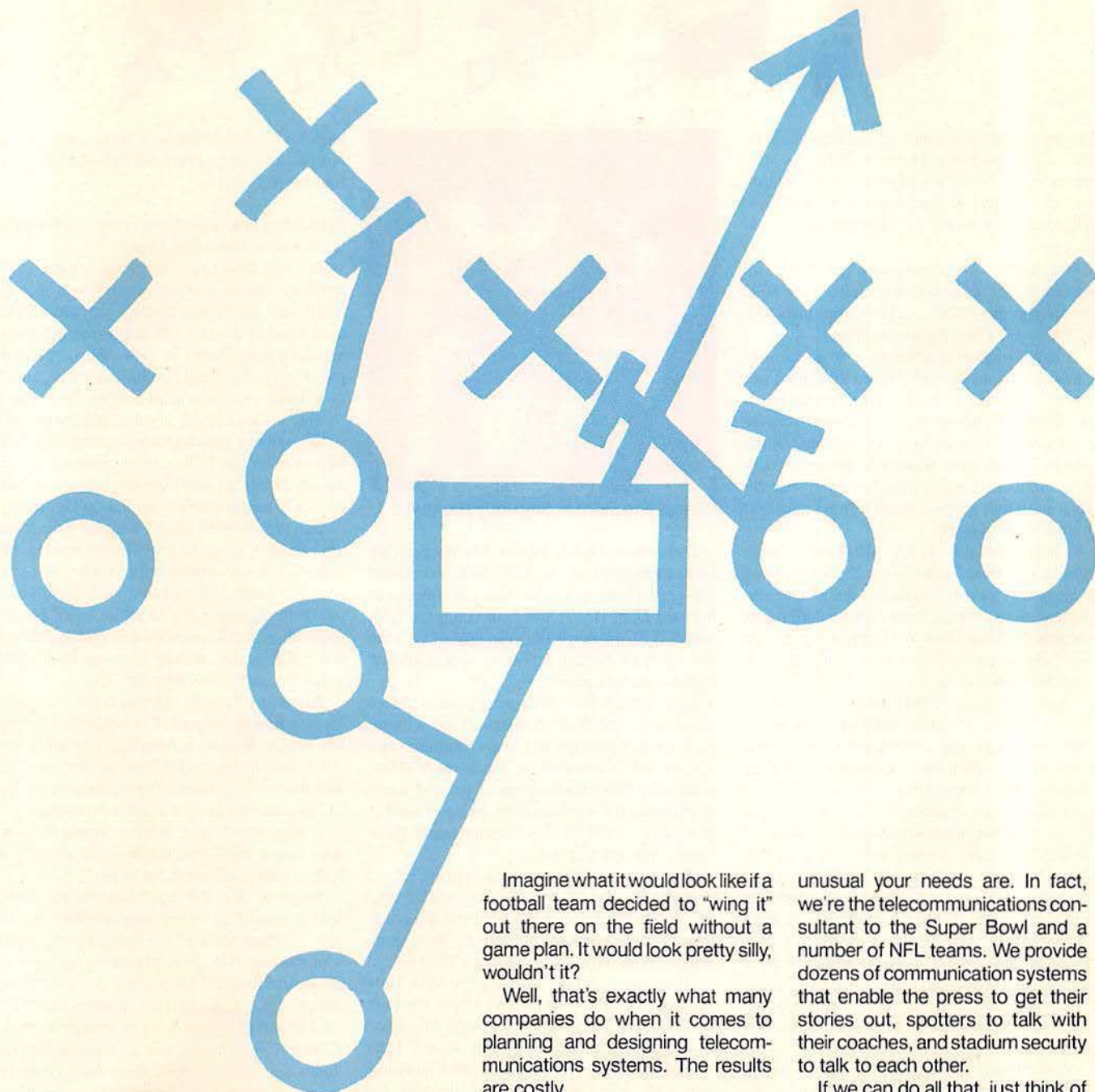
The defensive line could be Nunn and Al Baker, team leader with 10½ sacks, at end, David Galloway at one tackle, and Stafford Mays and Mark Duda battling for the other. If Curtis Greer recovers from major knee surgery, he will be a factor along with Bob Clasby.

Carl Carter and Cedric Mack (4 interceptions) are the corners, and Lonnie Young joins Leonard Smith at safety in a sound, though unspectacular, secondary.

The Cardinals do, however, have a spectacular return man in Vai Sikahema, who made the team as a tenth-round draft choice, then went to the Pro Bowl after running back two punts in the last game for touchdowns. He led the NFC with a 12.1-yard average per return.

Placekicker John Lee had knee surgery and missed the last five games, but he should be healthy. Stallings hopes that Lee and punter Greg Cater (37.2 average) will be more consistent.

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CENTRAL DIVISION



Maybe the Pack isn't back yet, but the Vikings are, at least partially. However, Chicago still seems to have quite a lead in the NFC Central foot race. Until further notice, the division will remain the Bears' private fiefdom.

CHICAGO—With one exception, the Bears remain the same team that brutalized the NFL en route to their 1985 world championship. It is, however, a significant exception.

Jim McMahon is a wacky guy and sometimes he and head coach Mike Ditka don't see eye to eye, but he clearly is the tie that binds the Bears. Without him at quarterback for what amounted to most of last season, Chicago (14-2) was good enough to run away with its third consecutive division title, but the Bears couldn't get past Washington in the first round of the playoffs.

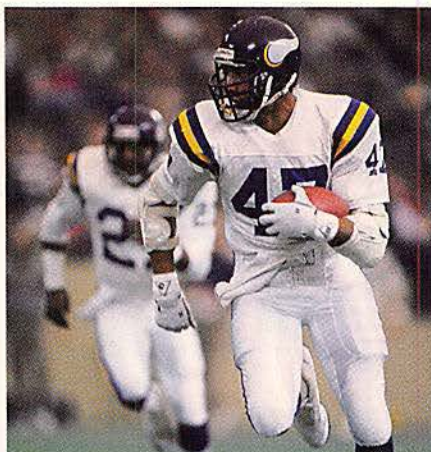
There's no guarantee McMahon, with whom the Bears have won 23 consecutive games, will return this season, either. Or ever. A rotator-cuff injury, for which he underwent surgery in December after appearing in just six games, can be disastrous for anyone who must throw a ball for a living.

And, although 16,000-yard rusher Walter Payton persists in acting immortal, the Bears can't expect to again rule the football world without a better-balanced offense than they had in 1986. Chicago was first in the NFL in rushing—with an average of 168.8 yards per game—but twentieth in passing as Ditka tried Mike Tomczak, Steve Fuller, and finally Doug Flutie as replacements for McMahon.

Flutie is the favorite to emerge from that trio as the starter if McMahon's recovery drags into the 1987 season. The little guy (5-9, 174), a victim of the USFL's demise, hadn't played in more than a year when the Bears signed him at midseason, and he never was fully in sync despite completing half of his 46 passes for 361 yards and three touchdowns.

Collectively, Chicago quarterbacks threw 25 interceptions against just 12 touchdown passes, and the Bears went through one stretch in which they scored fewer than 20 points in six of seven games. During that same stretch, however, their NFL-leading defense allowed more than 10 points just twice and the Bears went 5-2.

The Bears, who didn't seem to miss Buddy Ryan or his 46 Defense, gave up a league-low 187 points (an NFL record for a 16-game season) and 20 touchdowns while intercepting 31 passes and recording 62 quarterback sacks.



Vikings Pro Bowl safety Joey Browner.

Defensive tackle Steve McMichael (8 sacks) emerged as an AFC-NFC Pro Bowl player, following in the steps of linemates Richard Dent (11½) and Dan Hampton (10), while William Perry became less of an icon and more of a solid defensive tackle despite ongoing weight problems.

Linebackers Otis Wilson (8 sacks), Mike Singletary, and Wilber Marshall are without peer, except perhaps in Giants Stadium, and the secondary couldn't be much more solid, especially Mike Richardson (7 interceptions) at left corner, Gary Fencik (3 interceptions) at free safety, and Pro Bowl strong safety Dave Duerson (6 interceptions).

The only competition for a starting job on defense will be at right corner, where 1985 regular Leslie Frazier returns from knee surgery that cost him all of last season to challenge Vestee Jackson and Reggie Phillips.

The offensive line, which gave up a club-record low of 24 sacks and made Payton's 1,333 yards possible, is set with Pro Bowl center, Jay Hilgenberg, guards Tom Thayer and Mark Bortz, and tackles Keith Van Horne and NFL offensive lineman of the year Jim Covert.

Fullback Matt Suhey remains Payton's personal escort. Receivers Willie Gault (42 catches) and Keith Ortego (23), plus tight ends Emery Moorehead (26), and Tim Wrightman (22) are key figures in the almost incidental passing game, as is Payton, who caught 37 for 382 additional yards in his twelfth NFL season. The return of Dennis McKinnon from injury also will help the passing game.

Punter Maury Buford averaged 41.3, and

placekicker Kevin Butler's field goals pulled out two games in overtime and another with four seconds left.

MINNESOTA—So there is life in Minnesota after all without Bud Grant.

The last time Grant retired (after the 1983 season), the following season was a 3-13 nightmare. So he returned for one more year, then handed the reins to long-time offensive assistant Jerry Burns in 1986. Burns became the first Vikings head coach—Grant included—to have a winning season in his first year.

The Vikings (9-7), capably led by rejuvenated veteran quarterback Tommy Kramer, had one of the NFL's most productive offenses and didn't slip from the playoff picture until a fifteenth-week upset loss at Houston.

Can they do well again? Kramer, more than anyone else, is apt to provide the answer. He missed just two games with injuries last season, his tenth, and finished with the highest quarterback rating (92.6) in the NFL. He led the NFC with 24 touchdown passes and threw for 3,000 yards, averaging more than eight yards for each of his attempts.

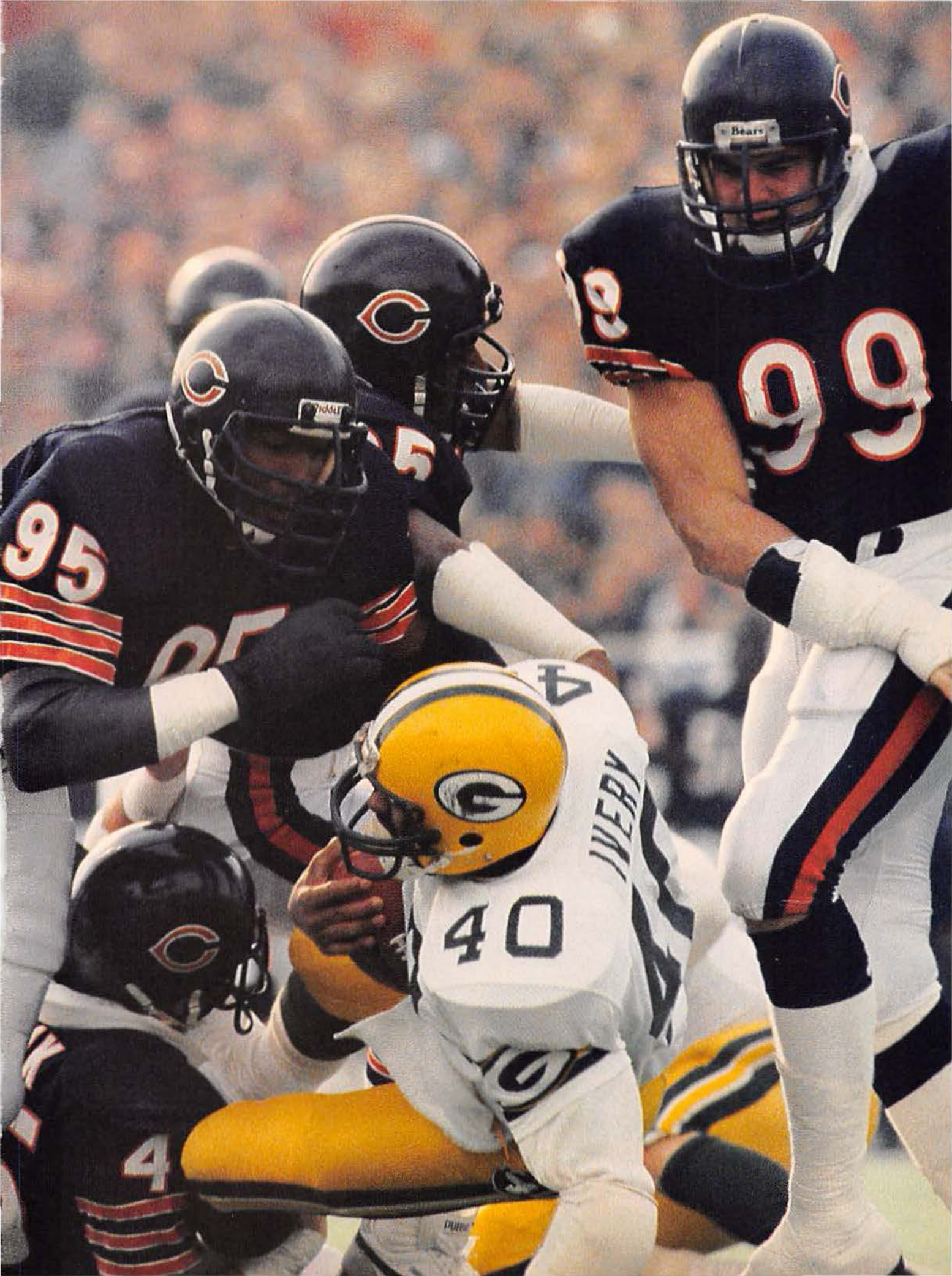
Assuming Kramer can stay healthy, a problem for him in the past, he should be entering his prime. Burns, a Minnesota coach since 1968, has surrounded Kramer with the system and the big-play talent to keep him at the top of his game for several seasons to come.

If not, seven-year veteran Wade Wilson, who threw for 7 touchdowns, is one of the league's most effective backups.

None of the Vikings' four Super Bowl teams scored as many points (398) as last year's, which also tied the franchise record for touchdowns (48). Five players caught passes for more than 500 yards: Pro Bowl tight end Steve Jordan (58 catches), running back Darin Nelson (53), and wide receivers Anthony Carter (38), Leo Lewis (32), and Hassan Jones (28). Each of those three wide receivers averaged more than 18 yards per reception.

The Vikings will try to become more effective running the ball, although double-threat Nelson averaged 4.2 yards per carry en route to a 793-yard season. Fullback Alfred Anderson added 347 behind a line made stronger by the addition of former USFL star Gary Zim-

Richard Dent (95), Dan Hampton (99), Gary Fencik (45), and the rest of the Bears' defense set an NFL 16-game record for fewest points allowed—187.



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merman, who took over at left tackle.

Zimmerman and nine-year veterans Jim Hough at guard and Dennis Swilley at center give the Vikings a formidable combination, while guard Terry Tausch and tackle Tim Irwin are dependable on the right side. Kramer and Wilson got sacked 44 times, a respectable figure but one that can be improved.

An opportunistic defense completes the Vikings' refurbished package. The defense forced 42 turnovers as Minnesota tied for fourth in the NFL in the give-away/take-away category with a plus-13. Left corner Issiac Holt showed the way with 8 interceptions and Pro Bowl strong safety Joey Browner had 4. Browner also had 4 fumble recoveries.

Browner led the team in tackles and is the make-things-happen specialist in a secondary that also includes right cornerback Carl Lee (3 interceptions) and veteran free safety John Harris (3). Steady middle linebacker Scott Studwell anchors outside linebackers Chris Martin and David Howard, while left end Doug Martin, left tackle Tim Newton, right tackle Keith Millard, and right end Chris Doleman, start up front.

Only eight-year pro Martin, who produced 9 sacks, has more than two seasons of NFL experience on the defensive line. Thus it's likely the Vikings can be expected to improve upon their team total of 38 sacks. Defensive coordinator Floyd Peters isn't above making changes, either. The Vikings used nine different starting defensive combinations in 1986.

But their frequent state of flux wasn't a liability. Minnesota upset Chicago and San Francisco in back-to-back games, and its losses to conference finalists Cleveland, Washington, and the New York Giants were by a total of 11 points. Meanwhile, the Vikings' nine victories were by an impressive average margin of 19.9 points.

Kicker Chuck Nelson, out of football in 1985, was a big help. He finished fourth in the NFL in scoring with 110 points. Punter Greg Coleman, meanwhile, averaged 41.4 yards a kick.

It's a tough act to follow. But then so was Bud Grant.

DETROIT—The 1986 Lions were beaten seven times by a touchdown or less. Despite improving slightly in almost every major statistical category, they still slumped from 7-9 to 5-11 in Darryl Rogers's second season as head coach.

The Lions hope that 1987 will be a different kind of Long year. That's Long as in Chuck, last year's number-one draft choice, who spent most of his rookie season learning by spectating, not playing, after he held out for almost all of training camp.

Long did start the last two games, but he struggled in a season-ending loss to Atlanta. Long still must beat out veterans Eric Hipple (1,919 yards, 9 touchdowns, 11 interceptions) and Joe Ferguson.

The Lions' twenty-fourth-ranked offense also could use a pick-me-up in the form of a big-play threat, especially with 995-yard receiver Jeff Chadwick (53 catches) having to



Lions running back James Jones.

come back from an Achilles-tenon injury he suffered in the next-to-last game.

With Chadwick a question mark and 13-year veteran Leonard Thompson (25 catches) about out of legs, Carl Bland (44) will move even more to the forefront. Ex-USFL star Eric Truvillion should help, too, especially as a deep threat. The Lions also expect more offensive production out of tight end Jimmie Giles, the former Tampa Bay Pro Bowl player. Giles caught just 19 passes for Detroit in 1986 after being signed near midseason.

Fullback James Jones can run (903 yards, 8 touchdowns) and catch (54 for 334 yards), while rookie halfback Garry James was a pleasant surprise with 688 rushing yards.

The Lions are strong in the offensive line, with left tackle Lomas Brown emerging as a top player in his second season and right guard Keith Dorney providing veteran leadership. Getting left guard Harvey Salem from Houston was a plus. Center Steve Mott and right tackle Rich Strenger are hard-working overachievers.

The defensive line drags down a relatively solid unit that responds well to coordinator Wayne Fontes's gung-ho style. San Diego

NFC CENTRAL	Chicago	Minnesota	Detroit	Green Bay	Tampa Bay
Season	14-2	9-7	5-11	4-12	2-14
Second Half	7-1	4-4	2-6	3-5	1-7
vs. NFC Central	7-1	6-2	3-5	3-5	1-7
vs. NFC	10-2	8-4	4-8	3-9	1-13
vs. AFC	4-0	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-1
at Home	7-1	5-3	1-7	1-7	1-7
on Road	7-1	4-4	4-4	3-5	1-7
on Artificial Turf	11-2	6-6	3-9	1-5	1-5
on Grass Fields	3-0	3-1	2-2	3-7	1-9
Points (NFL Rank)	22.0 (13)	24.9 (4)	17.3 (22)	15.9 (25)	14.9 (26)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	11.7 (1)	17.1 (5)	20.4 (13T)	26.1 (27)	29.6 (28)
Yards (NFL Rank)	341.2 (7)	353.2 (4)	284.7 (24)	316.3 (18)	272.6 (27)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	258.1 (1)	313.3 (11)	321.8 (15)	313.4 (12)	395.8 (28)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	168.8 (1)	108.6 (16)	110.7 (15)	100.9 (23)	116.4 (12)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	91.4 (2)	112.3 (13)	146.8 (26)	130.9 (21)	165.5 (28)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	172.4 (20)	244.6 (5)	174.0 (19)	215.4 (14)	156.1 (27)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	166.7 (2)	201.0 (13)	175.0 (4)	182.5 (5)	230.3 (24)
Turnover +/− (NFL Rank)	0 (14T)	+13 (4T)	+4 (11)	−13 (27)	−10 (22T)

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Green Bay running back Paul Ott Carruth.

castoff Keith Ferguson had 9½ sacks from his left end spot, but nose tackle Eric Williams and right end William Gay (6½ sacks) need to contribute more.

Cornerback is another problem, particularly with Bobby Watkins having missed most of last season with leg problems. His replacement, Duane Galloway (4 interceptions), suffered a broken arm in the final game. Bruce McNorton (4 interceptions) holds his own on the right side.

Free safety Devon Mitchell, who intercepted 5 passes as a rookie, was the Lions' secondary star. Strong safety Demetrius Johnson lacks foot speed and will be pushed to keep from losing his job to William Graham.

Linebacker isn't a worry, assuming left outside linebacker Jimmy Williams is fully recovered from a midseason knee injury that put him on injured reserve. Right outside linebacker Mike Cofer, moved there from the defensive line, played impressively. So did Vernon Maxwell, who found his new inside spot much more to his liking. James Harrell plays beside him in the middle and he and Maxwell were 2-3 on the team in tackles.

Ed Murray remains a dependable place-kicker. He hit his last 8 field-goal attempts, and his 85 points led the team in scoring for a seventh consecutive season. Punter Mike Black, however, averaged only 39.5 a kick, twelfth in the NFC.

GREEN BAY—Head coach Forrest Gregg has a tough sell. After two consecutive 8-8 seasons, Gregg gambled by shuffling the Packers' deck, then watched them sputter to a 4-12 record.

"We paid a dear price," he conceded, referring to a major rebuilding project that was intended to shake Green Bay out of its doldrums. "Sometimes you have to get worse before you can get better."

The good news?

Quarterback Randy Wright, playing his first full season, showed promise, throwing for 3,247 yards and 17 touchdowns. Gregg also likes his offensive line, and linebacker Tim Harris, while the juggled secondary also

BEHIND THE DRAFT

Until it came time to make the first pick, **Chicago** was talking defensive lineman or wide receiver, not quarterback. The Bears already had four on their roster. But Michigan's Jim Harbaugh became the fifth. With Jim McMahon's status for 1987 still uncertain, head coach Mike Ditka decided he couldn't chance waiting until the second round to select Harbaugh, who passed for 2,557 yards as a senior after leading the nation in passing efficiency as a junior. The Bears got a wide receiver, SMU's Ron Morris, in the second round, and they chose a defensive end, Grambling's Sean Smith, in the fourth.

Minnesota had an excellent offense in 1986, but it wasn't balanced enough to suit head coach Jerry Burns, who wants to see a better running game. Top draft choice D.J. Dozier, a 6-foot, 203-pound halfback, could be the solution. The Penn State All-America, known for his cutback skills, gained 811 yards while scoring 12 touchdowns for the national-champion Nittany Lions. He and veteran Darrin Nelson will give the Vikings a potent one-two wallop. Second-round pick Ray Berry, a 225-pound linebacker from Baylor, and third-round selection Henry Thomas, a 260-pound nose tackle from LSU, should add depth to the defense.

Detroit's first three picks were defensive end Reggie Rogers, nose tackle Jerry Ball, and defensive back Garland Rivers, as the Lions sought to improve their defense. The 6-6, 272-pound Rogers was the seventh player taken overall after winning Pac-10 defensive player-of-the-year honors at Washington. It's hoped he'll rejuvenate the Lions' faded pass rush. SMU's Ball, who carries 290 pounds on a not-quite six-foot frame, is aptly named, but, like Rogers, he'll be given every chance to win a starting job. Rivers could be a factor, too.

With a number of voids to fill, **Green Bay** began at running back, choosing Auburn tailback Brent Fullwood first with the fourth pick overall. The 5-11, 209-pound Fullwood played in the shadow of Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson until his senior season, yet still averaged a school-record 7.15 yards per rush in his career. He could start for the Packers right away. Second-round choice Johnny Holland, a linebacker from Texas A&M, and third-rounder Dave Croston, a 6-5, 280-pound offensive tackle from Iowa, also could have immediate impact.

Tampa Bay took no chances. After losing Bo Jackson, the number-one pick in 1986, to baseball, the Buccaneers signed Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Vinny Testaverde before the draft. They even traded away incumbent quarterback Steve Young (to San Francisco) to start the Testaverde era without controversy. Then, armed with three second-round choices, new head coach Ray Perkins began shoring up his team's many

weaknesses. Washington State's Ricky Reynolds could help the secondary; Miami's Winston Moss provides depth at linebacker; and Mississippi State's Don Smith, a quarterback turned running back, could give James Wilder some much-needed help.

1987 Draft Choices

CHICAGO

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Jim Harbaugh	QB	Michigan
2.	Ron Morris	WR	Southern Methodist
4.	Sean Smith	DE	Grambling
5.	Steve Bryan	DE	Oklahoma
5.	Will Johnson	LB	N.E. Louisiana
6.	John Adickes	C	Baylor
7.	Archie Harris	T	William & Mary
8.	Paul Migliazzo	LB	Oklahoma
9.	Lakei Heimuli	RB	Brigham Young
10.	Dick Chapura	DT	Missouri
11.	Tim Jessie	RB	Auburn
12.	Eric Jeffries	DB	Texas

MINNESOTA

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	D.J. Dozier	RB	Penn State
2.	Ray Berry	LB	Baylor
3.	Henry Thomas	NT	LSU
4.	Reggie Rutland	DB	Georgia Tech
6.	Greg Richardson	WR	Alabama
8.	Rick Fennely	RB	Washington
9.	Leonard Jones	DB	Texas Tech
10.	Bob Riley	T	Indiana
11.	Brent Pease	QB	Montana
12.	Keith Williams	DT	Florida

DETROIT

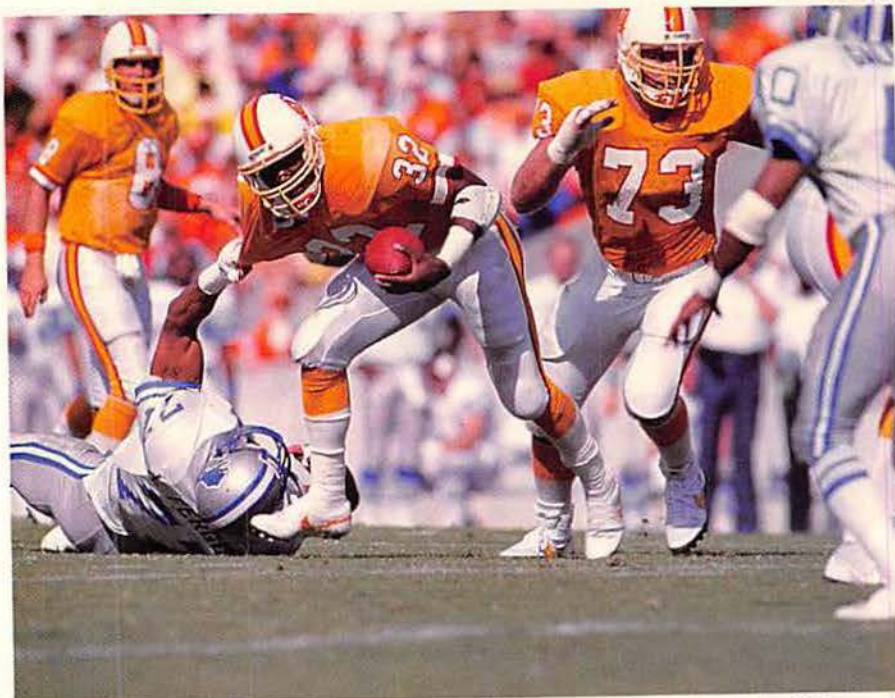
Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Reggie Rogers	DE	Washington
3.	Jerry Ball	NT	Southern Methodist
4.	Garland Rivers	DB	Michigan
6.	Danny Lockett	LB	Arizona
7.	Dan Saleaumua	DT	Arizona State
8.	Dennis Gibson	LB	Iowa State
9.	Rick Calhoun	RB	Cal State-Fullerton
10.	Raynard Brown	WR	South Carolina
11.	Brian Siverling	TE	Penn State
12.	Gary Lee	WR	Georgia Tech

GREEN BAY

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Brent Fullwood	RB	Auburn
2.	Johnny Holland	LB	Texas A&M
3.	Dave Croston	T	Iowa
3.	Scott Stephen	LB	Arizona State
3.	Frankie Neal	WR	Fort Hays, Kansas
4.	Lorenzo Freeman	DT	Pittsburgh
6.	Willie Marshall	WR	Temple
7.	Tony Leiker	DT	Stanford
7.	Bill Smith	P	Mississippi
8.	Jeff Drost	DT	Iowa
9.	Gregg Harris	G	Wake Forest
10.	Don Majkowski	QB	Virginia
11.	Patrick Scott	WR	Grambling
12.	Norman Jefferson	DB	LSU

TAMPA BAY

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Vinny Testaverde	QB	Miami
2.	Ricky Reynolds	DB	Washington State
2.	Winston Moss	LB	Miami
2.	Don Smith	RB	Mississippi State
3.	Mark Carrier	WR	Nicholls State
4.	Don Graham	LB	Penn State
4.	Ron Hall	TE	Hawaii
4.	Bruce Hill	WR	Arizona State
5.	Henry Rolling	LB	Nevada-Reno
5.	Tony Mayes	DB	Kentucky
6.	Steve Bartalo	RB	Colorado State
7.	Curt Jarvis	NT	Alabama
7.	Harry Swayne	DE	Rutgers
8.	Stan Mataele	NT	Arizona
9.	Joe Armentrout	RB	Wisconsin
9.	Greg Davis	P	Citadel
10.	Mike Simmonds	G	Indiana State
11.	Reggie Taylor	RB	Cincinnati
12.	Scott Cooper	DT	Kearney State
12.	Mike Shula	QB	Alabama



For Tampa Bay, even powerful running back James Wilder struggled in 1986.

played decently once it recovered from the early loss of cornerback Tim Lewis to a career-ending neck injury.

The bad news?

Uns...led situations at both running back and wide receiver...an ineffective pass rush...45 turnovers versus just 32 take-aways...off-the-field controversy. The Packers remain far removed from the glory years, having been a playoff team only twice since winning the first two Super Bowls.

Gerry Ellis (345 yards) and Paul Ott Carruth (308) were the starting backs at the end of last season for the NFL's twenty-third-ranked running team, but they hardly have jobs sewn up with Kenneth Davis and Gary Ellerson in the picture. Although Davis showed some fancy moves and was the leading rusher with 519 yards, he wasn't consistent and had trouble grasping the passing game.

Gregg, in turn, thought Ellerson could be a 1,000-yard back, but nagging injuries limited him to 287.

Phillip Epps had 49 catches and Walter Stanley 35 and both are capable wide receivers. Eddie Lee Ivery had 31 more as a swing man, playing both wide receiver and running back. James Lofton's 64 catches led the team, but personal legal problems led to his off-season trade to the Los Angeles Raiders.

Karl Swanke took over at center to stabilize an offensive line that was riddled by injuries. Left tackle Ken Ruettggers, left guard Tom Neville (a free-agent find), right guard Ron Hallstrom, and right tackle Alan Veingrad were the other starters at year's end, but Keith Uecker, Mark Cannon, Rich Moran, and Greg Feasel will challenge them in camp.

Dan Ross (17 catches), an AFC-NFC Pro Bowl player at Cincinnati, and Ed West (15) give the Packers quality at tight end.

On defense, the highest priority will be awarded to getting better at stopping the run.

Green Bay's pass defense permitted fewer yards than all but four other teams, with left corner Mark Lee (9 interceptions) having an outstanding year and strong safety Tiger Greene and free safety Kenny Stills playing key roles. Mossy Cade (4 interceptions) is the other corner, but Ed Berry could wind up there.

Harris, a rookie who had 8 sacks, became a pillar of strength at left outside linebacker, compensating for the early loss of veteran John Anderson to injury. Anderson probably will compete with Bobby Leopold now for the right outside spot. Brian Noble, the team's leading tackler, and Randy Scott start inside.

Gregg still has high hopes for 1984 number-one draft choice Alphonso Carreker at left end, although neither he nor nose tackles Charles Martin and Donnie Humphrey and right end Robert Brown have become adequate pass rushers so far. Ezra Johnson is the designated extra rusher.

Kicker Al Del Greco scored 80 points and extended his streak of consecutive extra points to 63. Don Bracken had a 40.1-yard punting average until injured in December, and Bill Renner averaged 41.5 in the last three games.

TAMPA BAY—Lest anyone forget, the foundation for the current world-champion New York Giants was laid by Ray Perkins, their head coach from 1979 through 1982. It is not a coincidence that the Buccaneers now have turned to Perkins themselves.

Tampa Bay is where the Giants (3-12-1 in 1983) were a few years ago, having gone 2-14 in each of the last two seasons. After four seasons at the University of Alabama, Perkins will try to get the Buccaneers back to the level they were at in 1979, when they played for the NFC championship.

It could take a while, considering that Tam-

pa Bay pretty well bottomed out last season, finishing last in defense, next-to-last in offense, and losing 12 of the last 13 games.

But Perkins does inherit a few solid building blocks, the best of which are versatile running back James Wilder and a solid trio of inside linebackers. And last spring the Buccaneers drafted and signed Miami's Vinny Testaverde, who led the nation in passing in 1986.

Wilder had run for more than 2,800 yards on a grueling 772 carries in the previous two seasons, but he suffered a badly bruised sternum the first time he ran the ball in 1986 and never fully recovered, gaining just 704 yards on 190 rushes.

Testaverde passed for 2,557 yards and 26 touchdowns (with only 9 interceptions) in leading Miami to an 11-1 record in 1986. He was very accurate, too, completing 63.4 percent of his attempts. A few weeks after signing him, Tampa Bay traded last year's starter, Steve Young, to the 49ers for second- and fourth-round draft choices.

Steve DeBerg, who passed for 610 yards and 5 touchdowns, still is on hand, too, but he was intercepted 12 times, despite throwing just 96 passes. For both Testaverde and DeBerg, the Buccaneers need a big-play receiver to keep defenses honest.

Gerald Carter (42 catches) is a dependable possession receiver, but the other wide receiver job is wide open. Tight end Calvin Magee led Tampa Bay in receptions (45) and receiving touchdowns (5). But Jerry Bell, back from a knee injury, will push Magee.

Left tackle Rob Taylor, left guard George Yarno, center Randy Grimes, and right tackle Ron Heller are starters in the line, but each has to prove himself to the new boss. Rick Malory replaces Sean Farrell, who was traded to New England, at right guard.

Kicker Donald Igwebuike didn't get a lot of opportunities, but made 17 of 24 field goals, while punter Frank Garcia averaged 40.1 a kick.

Defensively, nobody's safe except inside linebacker Jeff Davis, who has led Tampa Bay in tackles for three consecutive seasons. He also forced 6 fumbles in 1986. Scot Brantley and Ervin Randle will compete for the adjacent inside spot, but at least both are dependable. The outside linebackers, Jackie Walker and Chris Washington, are less so.

Much better things are expected of a secondary that allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete 60 percent of their passes with just 13 interceptions. Right cornerback Rod Jones, a first-round draft choice, made his only interception in the final game. Left corner Vito McKeever had 3 but didn't distinguish himself. Neither did safeties Craig Swoope and Craig Curry.

But the most serious problems lie up front, where Tampa Bay still hasn't overcome the forced retirement of AFC-NFC Pro Bowl defensive end Lee Roy Selmon in 1985. With left end John Cannon starting just seven games because of a broken leg, the Buccaneers produced a league-low 19 sacks. Cannon, nose tackle Dave Logan, and right end Ron Holmes had a total of 6½ of those.

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WESTERN DIVISION



For a long time now, all the competition in the four-team NFC West has been out west, between San Francisco and Los Angeles. But maybe, just maybe, Atlanta and New Orleans are at last ready to give the division race a transcontinental flavor.

SAN FRANCISCO—Almost obscured by that playoff tidal wave of New York Giants points and 49ers miscues is the fact that San Francisco remains one of the National Football League's best teams, just two seasons removed from a relentless 18-1 march to the Super Bowl XIX championship.

San Francisco's 49-3 loss to New York in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game hardly was an accurate measure of the relative strengths of the two NFC division champions. Much closer to the mark was the Giants' 21-17 comeback victory in December. But the 49ers' humiliation could make them tougher this year.

"We've got a lot to prove," quarterback Joe Montana says. "Getting beat like that wasn't any fun." Especially not for Montana, who departed Giants Stadium on a stretcher, with a concussion. Still, the fact that he was around to play in the game means San Francisco has a bright future. When Montana underwent back surgery the second week, doctors feared his career might be over.

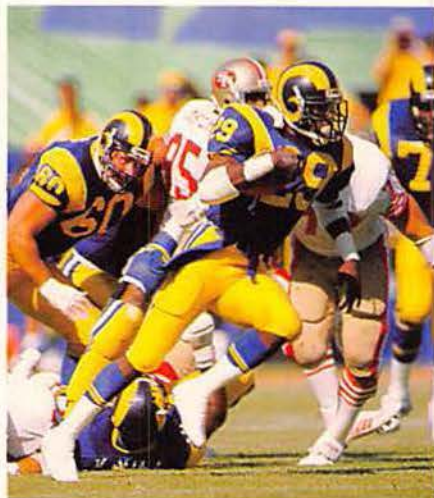
Instead, eight weeks later he returned to lead a 43-17 rout of St. Louis. He finished his eight-game season with 2,236 yards, a 62.2 completion percentage, and 8 touchdown passes. Given fanatical protection by his offensive line, he got sacked just 12 times and his back healed safely.

Even without Montana for half a season, Jerry Rice, the explosive second-year pro, joined the upper echelons of the league's most feared receivers, catching 86 passes for an NFL-leading 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Having dependable Dwight Clark working the other side creates a hardship for even the best secondaries. Clark caught 61 passes himself. Fullback Roger Craig had 81 catches, tight end Russ Francis 41, and running back-tight end Joe Cribbs another 35.

Last spring the 49ers gave their offense another boost by trading for scrambling Tampa Bay quarterback Steve Young, who started 14 games last season and passed for 2,282 yards and 8 touchdowns. Young also ran for 425 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Even without Young, Montana and Jeff Kemp (1,554 passing yards, 11 touchdowns



Eric Dickerson led the NFL in rushing.

despite missing four games with a dislocated hip) combined to make the 49ers the second-most productive passing team in the league behind Miami and Dan Marino. The 49ers' ground game, led by Craig's 830 yards and Cribbs's 590, came in a respectable tenth.

San Francisco's offensive success has its roots in the play of the line, where right tackle Keith Fahnhorst, right guard Randy Cross, center Fred Quillan, left guard John Ayers, and left tackle Bubba Paris have been business partners since 1984.

The 49ers, who used to be fumble-prone, lost a league-low nine and their give-away/take-away ratio, thanks to a league-leading 49 turnovers forced, was plus 20.

The surprise defensive contributors were rookie cornerbacks Don Griffin and Tim McKyer, who more than compensated for the almost season-long loss of two-time NFC Pro Bowl selection Eric Wright (groin) by combining to intercept nine passes.

All-pro safety Ronnie Lott's 10 interceptions were tops in the NFL, as was San Francisco's team total of 39, 5 of which were run in for touchdowns. Nickel back Tom Holmoe scored two times. Carlton Williamson (3 interceptions) remains a dependable strong safety and led the team in tackles last year.

Outside linebackers Milt McColl and Keena Turner and inside backers Riki Ellison and Jim Fahnhorst aren't flashy, but on this defense they don't have to be.

End Manu Tuiaasopo, nose tackle Michael

Carter, and end Dwaine Board (8 sacks) are the starters up front, and heavy reinforcements arrive in passing situations. Rookie Charles Haley, who played both end and outside linebacker, had a team-best 12 sacks—for 109 lost yards—and end Jeff Stover contributed 11 as a designated rusher.

Kicker Ray Wersching, meanwhile, was the NFL's third-leading scorer with 116 points. Punter Max Runager's 41.6-yard average was sixth in the NFC.

LOS ANGELES RAMS—The Rams are coming off a lost-and-found kind of year. They lost the division championship to San Francisco by half a game, but, in the process, they found a quarterback, Jim Everett.

Acquired in a trade from the Houston Oilers, who had been unable to sign him despite making him the third player taken in the draft, Everett started the last six games, including the wild-card playoff defeat at Washington.

The Rams' search for a quarterback, the missing ingredient in what seems to be a Super Bowl-caliber team, has taken them through 10 prospects in the 80s—four last season alone. It's a dream job for the right guy.

Seven Rams went to the 1987 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, second only to the champion Giants' eight. Eric Dickerson, the NFL's leading rusher in three of his four pro seasons, heads that list, of course.

Dickerson ran for 1,821 yards last season—he has an amazing 6,968 in just four years—but he had to carry 404 times to get to 1,821. Los Angeles's quarterbacks, in turn, threw only 403 passes and their collective 2,380 yards ranked last in the NFL, versus a fourth-place finish for the ground game.

The Rams need more balance or Dickerson soon will be a definite candidate for burnout. Fellow running back Barry Redden (467 yards) can relieve some of the pressure.

Robinson hired long-time San Diego assistant coach Ernie Zampese to add spice to his passing game, and the quality ingredients needed to make it work are already in place.

Fleet Henry Ellard missed all of the preseason and the first seven games of the regular season because of a contract dispute, but still led the team with 34 catches for 447 yards. El-

Wide receiver Jerry Rice helped drive the 49ers to the NFC West championship with 86 catches for an NFL-leading 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns.



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lard's partner is former Olympic sprinter Ron Brown (25 catches), who missed several games with a shoulder injury but should be fully recovered.

Tony Hunter (15 catches before being injured) is a big, fast tight end with good hands. The rest of the offensive line is skilled at both run and pass blocking.

Center Doug Smith, right guard Dennis Harrah, and right tackle Jackie Slater have been an NFC Pro Bowl combo the last three years, while left guard Tom Newberry and left tackle Irv Pankey are less heralded but still reliable. Newberry started as a rookie after another NFC Pro Bowl choice, Kent Hill, was sent to the Oilers in the trade for Everett.

The defense is coming off a hot-and-cold season, ranking fourth in yards allowed and fourth in interceptions but only twenty-second in points allowed. The front line could use some beefing up, although end Doug Reed (6½ sacks), nose tackle Shawn Miller (5 sacks), and end Reggie Doss hardly are liabilities. Designated pass rusher Gary Jeter added 8 sacks.

Inside linebacker Carl Ekern was a first-time Pro Bowl selection in his tenth and best season, while outside backers Mel Owens and Mike Wilcher (5½ sacks) and the other man inside, Mark Jerue, cover a lot of ground.

The secondary is even more solid with all-pro right corner LeRoy Irvin (6 interceptions), left corner Jerry Gray (8 interceptions), and strong safety Nolan Cromwell (5 interceptions). The only competition for a starting job on defense will be at free safety between Vince Newsome (3 interceptions) and Johnnie Johnson.

Kicker Mike Lansford hit 17 of 24 field goals, but punter Dale Hatcher fell way off his 43.2-yard average as a rookie. He averaged only 38.6, thirteenth in the NFC.

ATLANTA—The Falcons went 5-1-1 at the start of last season behind young quarterback Dave Archer, but then the roof fell in offensively and they suffered seven defeats in eight games. A closing victory over Detroit failed to save Dan Henning's job, which went to defensive coordinator Marion Campbell.

Campbell had been head coach of the Falcons before. He and the Falcons hope his second tenure works out better than the first. He went 6-19 before being fired five games into the 1976 season. But these Falcons are better than those were.

Archer, who threw for 2,007 yards and 10 touchdowns before a shoulder separation ended his first season as a starter five weeks early, seems to be a talent around whom a winning franchise can be built. Backup Turk Schonert completed 62 percent of his passes for 1,032 yards.

Three-time 1,000-yard rusher Gerald Riggs, who had 1,327 in 1986, is only a notch below Eric Dickerson in the pecking order of top NFL backs. Right guard Bill Fralic was an NFC Pro Bowl starter in his second season.

Meanwhile, despite an inexperienced secondary, Campbell's defense ranked seventh in the league, rising from twenty-eighth in



Gerald Riggs: 1,327 yards for Atlanta.

points-allowed to sixth and from twenty-fifth in yards-allowed to seventh.

Because of Riggs, the only Falcon with more than 300 yards rushing, Atlanta finished third in the league running the ball versus twenty-fifth passing it. Archer, who knows how to scramble, was second on the team with 298 yards and a 5.7-yard-per-carry average.

Charlie Brown leads a deep group of pass-catching talent. He had 63 receptions for 918 yards and 4 touchdowns, while rookie Floyd Dixon caught 42 for 617 and H-back, Ken Whisenhunt, added 20.

Fralic is now the man around whom the offensive line revolves, although left tackle Mike Kenn is a five-time Pro Bowl selection. Left guard John Scully (leg) and right tackle Brett Miller (knee) are coming off injuries that placed them on reserve at the end of last season. Center Wayne Radloff, a former free agent, is an overachiever.

On the defensive line, the anchor is nose tackle Tony Casillas, a first-round draft choice who lived up to very high expectations by making 111 tackles. Casillas is flanked by ends Mike Gann (5½ sacks) and Rick Bryan (7 sacks).

NFC WEST	San Francisco	Los Angeles Rams	Atlanta	New Orleans
Season	10-5-1	10-6	7-8-1	7-9
Second Half	5-3	4-4	2-6	4-4
vs. NFC West	3-2-1	3-3	2-3-1	3-3
vs. NFC	6-5-1	8-4	6-5-1	6-6
vs. AFC	4-0	2-2	1-3	1-3
at Home	6-2	6-2	2-5-1	4-4
on Road	4-3-1	4-4	5-3	3-5
on Artificial Turf	1-1	4-2	3-1	6-7
on Grass Fields	9-4-1	6-4	4-7-1	1-2
Points (NFL Rank)	23.4 (7)	19.3 (17)	17.5 (21)	18.0 (19)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	15.4 (3)	16.7 (4)	17.5 (6)	17.9 (7)
Yards (NFL Rank)	380.1 (3)	290.8 (23)	319.1 (17)	296.4 (21)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	305.0 (6)	304.4 (5)	306.8 (7)	318.9 (14)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	124.1 (10)	153.6 (4)	157.8 (3)	129.6 (8)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	97.2 (3)	105.1 (8)	119.8 (16)	97.4 (4)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	256.0 (2)	137.3 (28)	161.4 (25)	166.8 (23)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	207.8 (17)	199.4 (11)	187.0 (7)	221.4 (21)
Turnover +/− (NFL Rank)	+20 (1)	+6 (97)	+3 (12)	0 (147)

The linebackers include Reggie Wilkes and Joel Williams outside and Buddy Curry and John Rade inside. Curry and Rade were the Falcons' 1-2 tacklers last season.

When veteran left corner Bobby Butler broke his leg, the Falcons were 5-1-1. His exit left Atlanta with the NFL's youngest secondary in replacement David Croudip and right corner Scott Case—both third-year players—plus rookie safeties Robert Moore and Bret Clark. Clark had 5 interceptions, Case 4.

Placekicker Mick Luckhurst is a consistent veteran, while punter Rick Donnelly had the NFL's fourth-best average (43.9) last year.

NEW ORLEANS—Granted, the Saints finished last, which is not unusual for them. They remain the only current NFL team that never has made the playoffs or even had a winning season.

But their 7-9 record under first-year coach Jim Mora did represent a small step forward, especially since they went 6-5 after a 1-4 start.

Mora won back-to-back league championships in the USFL. He understands the ingredients necessary for success.

It helps to have a quarterback and a running back who can be counted on. New Orleans found both in 1986, with Dave Wilson finally asserting himself after undergoing corrective surgery after the 1985 season, and rookie Rueben Mayes contributing a 1,353-yard season that earned him a spot on the NFC Pro Bowl team.

The Saints also have a sturdy offensive line, a dependable defensive front three, a superstar linebacker in Rickey Jackson, and an NFC Pro Bowl kicker, Morten Andersen.

What they don't have is a fullback, a deep-threat wide receiver, or a reliable secondary.

Left corner Dave Waymer had 9 interceptions, tying for second in the league, but his gambling, all-or-nothing style was a frequent source of trouble. He may be moved to free safety this year to compete with Frank Wattelet (3 interceptions). Johnny Poe (3 interceptions) plays right corner, and Antonio Gibson is a solid strong safety.



Rueben Mayes ran for 1,353 yards.

Jackson, who had 9 sacks off blitzes while leading the Saints in tackles, is an anchor at the left outside linebacker spot, while inside starters Sam Mills and Alvin Toles hold their own. But James Haynes will be pushed by Pat Swilling on the right side.

Left end Bruce Clark (5 sacks), nose tackle Tony Elliott, right end Jim Wilks, and end James Geathers aren't easily budged up front, and, in passing situations, Frank Warren gets a call. He had 8½ sacks as a designated rusher.

Mayes made everyone look better on offense, averaging 4.7 yards per carry and scoring 8 times to become one of the best third-round investments anybody ever made.

A big plus would be more productivity at fullback. Buford Jordan (207 yards) is the incumbent, but it's hoped Hokie Gajan, who missed all of last season after major knee surgery, will be able to start. Gajan averaged 5.4 yards on 252 carries in his first four seasons.

Wide receiver Mike Jones had a career-high 48 catches for 625 yards, and his sidekick Eric Martin contributed 37 for 675 (an 18.2 average) with 5 touchdowns, but Mora still wants more out of this position. He'd also welcome a return to form by tight end Hoby Brenner, who, slowed by nagging injuries, saw his reception count fall from 42 in 1985 to 18. John Tice (37 for 330) took over as the starter.

The offensive line will be improved if last season's top draft choice, Jim Dombrowski, can come back from the broken foot that sidelined him for the last 13 games after he'd won the left tackle job. Ralph Williams (knee) also hopes to reclaim right guard.

The best news in the line is right tackle Stan Brock's strong recovery from back surgery. Center Steve Korte and left guard Brad Edelman also are coming off strong years. The Saints permitted just 27 sacks.

In making the NFC Pro Bowl team for the second consecutive season, Andersen made 26 of 30 field goals. Punter Brian Hansen had the NFC's fourth-best average (42.7).

BEHIND THE DRAFT

So what if **San Francisco** had the NFL's third-best offense in 1986. The 49ers used their two late first-round choices for offensive tackle Harris Barton (6-4, 283) of North Carolina and 5-11, 200-pound halfback Terrence Flagler of Clemson, then took offensive guard Jeff Bregel (6-4, 281) of USC early in the second round. Flagler averaged 6.5 yards per carry as a senior. Barton and Bregel, both excellent blockers, should add depth to a solid veteran line.

Choosing forty-seventh after trading their top pick to Houston last year for quarterback Jim Everett, the **Los Angeles Rams** may have found what they needed anyway—a pass rusher—in 6-1, 257-pound defensive end Donald Evans of Winston-Salem State. He could contribute immediately in passing situations. Third-round pick Cliff Hicks, a cornerback from Oregon, will be tried as a punt returner.

Atlanta figures to stage the best quarterback war south of Chicago, having made Chris Miller the team's top choice. Miller, who threw for 6,681 yards and 42 touchdowns in four seasons at Oregon, will compete with three veterans. The Falcons' third-ranked running game needed improvement even less, but second-round pick Kenny Flowers of Clemson was too highly rated to pass up.

The last thing **New Orleans** really needed was a defensive lineman, but the Saints still took 6-6, 288-pound Shawn Knight of BYU in the first round. Head coach Jim Mora thought Knight was too good a prospect to pass up. The Saints had entered the draft looking for more speed at wide receiver and cornerback. Second-round pick Lonzell Hill of Washington, a wide receiver, and third-round choice Michael Adams of Arkansas State, a cornerback, could help.

1987 Draft Choices

SAN FRANCISCO

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Harris Barton	T	North Carolina
1.	Terrence Flagler	RB	Clemson
2.	Jeff Bregel	G	USC
5.	Paul Jokisch	WR	Michigan
6.	Bob White	LB	Penn State
7.	Steve DeLine	K	Colorado State
8.	Dave Grayson	LB	Fresno State
9.	Jonathan Shelley	DB	Mississippi
10.	John Paye	QB	Stanford
11.	Calvin Nicholas	WR	Grambling

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Round	Player	Position	College
2.	Donald Evans	DE	Winston-Salem
3.	Cliff Hicks	DB	Oregon
4.	Doug Bartlett	NT	Northern Illinois
4.	Larry Kelm	LB	Texas A&M
5.	Scott Mersereau	DT	Southern Connecticut
6.	Jon Embree	TE	Colorado
8.	Michael Stewart	DB	Fresno State
9.	Tracy Ham	RB	Georgia Southern
10.	David Smith	LB	Northern Arizona
12.	Alonzo Williams	RB	Mesa, Colorado
12.	Fred Stokes	DE	Georgia Southern

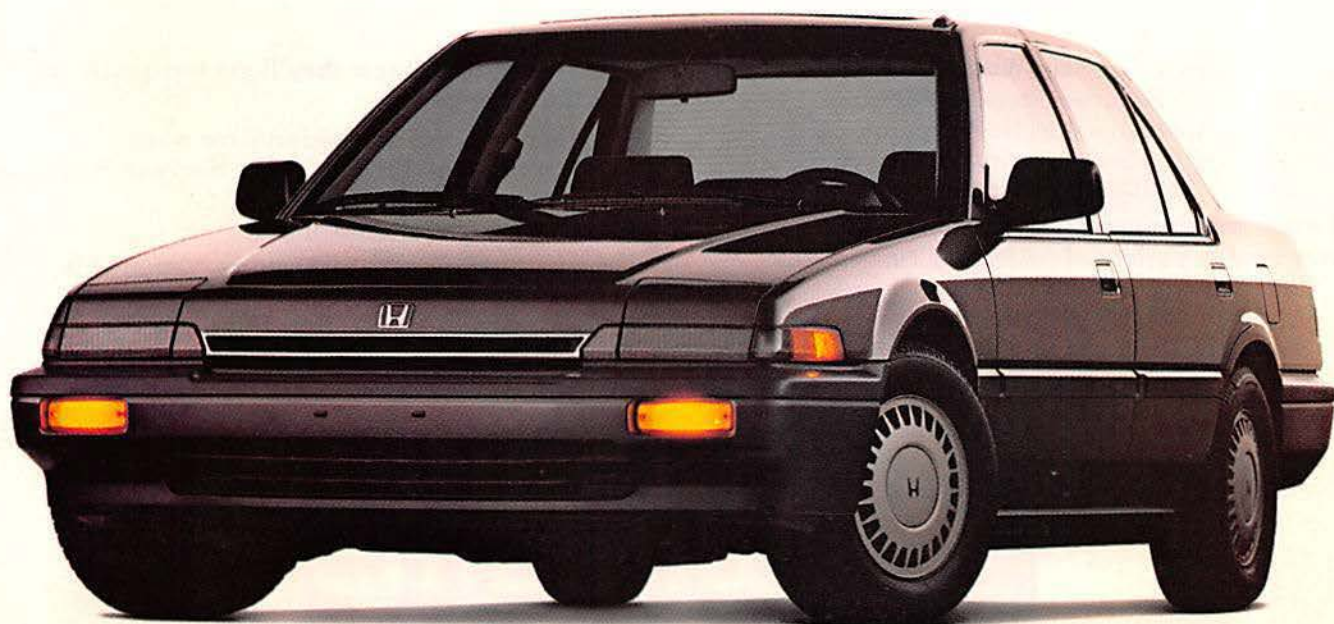
ATLANTA

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Chris Miller	QB	Oregon
2.	Kenny Flowers	RB	Clemson
4.	Ralph Van Dyke	T	Southern Illinois
5.	Mark Mraz	DE	Utah State
6.	Paul Kiser	G	Wake Forest
7.	Michael Reid	LB	Wisconsin
8.	Curtis Talaferro	LB	Virginia Tech
9.	Terrence Anthony	DB	Iowa State
10.	Jerry Reese	TE	Illinois
11.	Elbert Shelley	DB	Arkansas State
12.	Larry Emery	RB	Wisconsin

NEW ORLEANS

Round	Player	Position	College
1.	Shawn Knight	DT	Brigham Young
2.	Lonzell Hill	WR	Washington
3.	Michael Adams	DB	Arkansas State
4.	Steve Trapilo	G	Boston College
5.	Milton Mack	DB	Alcorn State
6.	Thomas Henley	WR	Stanford
7.	Gene Atkins	DB	Florida A&M
8.	Toi Cook	DB	Stanford
9.	Scott Leach	LB	Ohio State
10.	Robert Clark	WR	N. Carolina Central
11.	Arthur Wells	TE	Grambling
12.	Tyrone Sorrells	G	Georgia Tech

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1987 SCHEDULE

1986 RESULTS



*Home games are in capital letters;
dates abbreviated
to first initial of month.*

1987 Schedule

ATLANTA FALCONS

S13 at Tampa Bay
S20 WASHINGTON
S27 at New Orleans
O4 PITTSBURGH
O11 at San Francisco
O18 L.A. RAMS
O25 at Houston
N1 NEW ORLEANS
N8 at Cleveland
N15 CINCINNATI
N22 at Minnesota
N29 ST. LOUIS
D6 at Dallas
D13 at L.A. Rams
D20 SAN FRANCISCO
D27 DETROIT

1986 Results

at New Orleans 31-10
ST. LOUIS 33-13
at Dallas 37-35
at Tampa Bay 23-20
PHILADELPHIA 0-16
L.A. RAMS 26-14
SAN FRANCISCO* 10-10
at L.A. Rams 7-14
at New England 17-25
N.Y. JETS 14-28
CHICAGO 10-13
at San Francisco 0-20
at Miami 20-14
INDIANAPOLIS 23-28
NEW ORLEANS 9-14
at Detroit 20-6

CHICAGO BEARS

S14 N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)
S20 TAMPA BAY
S27 at Detroit
O4 at Philadelphia
O11 MINNESOTA
O18 NEW ORLEANS
O25 at Tampa Bay
N1 KANSAS CITY
N8 at Green Bay
N16 at Denver (Mon.)
N22 DETROIT
N29 GREEN BAY
D6 at Minnesota
D14 at San Fran. (Mon.)
D20 SEATTLE
D27 at L.A. Raiders

CLEVELAND 41-31
PHILADELPHIA* 13-10
at Green Bay 25-12
at Cincinnati 44-7
MINNESOTA 23-0
at Houston 20-7
at Minnesota 7-23
DETROIT 13-7
L.A. RAMS 17-20
at Tampa Bay 23-3
at Atlanta 13-10
GREEN BAY 12-10
PITTSBURGH* 13-10
TAMPA BAY 48-14
at Detroit 16-13
at Dallas 24-10

DALLAS COWBOYS

S13 at St. Louis
S20 at N.Y. Giants
S27 BUFFALO
O4 at N.Y. Jets
O11 PHILADELPHIA
O19 WASHINGTON (Mon.)
O25 at Philadelphia
N2 N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)
N8 at Detroit
N15 at New England
N22 MIAMI
N26 MINNESOTA (Thanks.)
D6 ATLANTA
D13 at Washington
D21 at L.A. Rams (Mon.)
D27 ST. LOUIS

N.Y. GIANTS 31-28
at Detroit 31-7
ATLANTA 35-37
at St. Louis 31-7
at Denver 14-29
WASHINGTON 30-6
at Philadelphia 17-14
ST. LOUIS 37-6
at N.Y. Giants 14-17
L.A. RAIDERS 13-17
at San Diego 24-21
at Washington 14-41
SEATTLE 14-31
at L.A. Rams 10-29
PHILADELPHIA 21-23
CHICAGO 10-24

DETROIT LIONS

S13 at Minnesota
S20 at L.A. Raiders
S27 CHICAGO
O4 TAMPA BAY
O11 at Green Bay
O18 SEATTLE
O25 GREEN BAY
N1 at Denver
N8 DALLAS
N15 at Washington
N22 at Chicago
N26 K.C. (Thanks.)
D6 L.A. RAMS
D13 at Tampa Bay
D20 MINNESOTA
D27 at Atlanta

at Minnesota 13-10
DALLAS 7-31
TAMPA BAY 20-24
at Cleveland 21-24
HOUSTON 24-13
at Green Bay 21-14
at L.A. Rams 10-14
at Chicago 7-13
CINCINNATI 17-24
MINNESOTA 10-24
at Philadelphia 13-11
at Tampa Bay 38-17
GREEN BAY 40-44
at Pittsburgh 17-27
CHICAGO 13-16
ATLANTA 6-20

GREEN BAY PACKERS

S13 L.A. RAIDERS
S20 DENVER at Mil.
S27 at Tampa Bay
O4 at Minnesota
O11 DETROIT
O18 PHILADELPHIA
O25 at Detroit
N1 TAMPA BAY at Mil.
N8 CHICAGO
N15 at Seattle
N22 at Kansas City
N29 at Chicago
D6 SAN FRANCISCO
D13 MINNESOTA at Mil.
D19 at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)
D27 at New Orleans

HOUSTON 3-31
at New Orleans 10-24
CHICAGO 12-25
at Minnesota 7-42
CIN. at Mil. 28-34
DETROIT 14-21
at Cleveland 17-14
SAN FRAN. at Mil. 17-31
at Pittsburgh 3-27
WASHINGTON 7-16
TAMPA BAY at Mil. 31-7
at Chicago 10-12
at Detroit 44-40
MINNESOTA 6-32
at Tampa Bay 21-7
at N.Y. Giants 24-55

1987 Schedule

L.A. RAMS

S13 at Houston
S20 MINNESOTA
S27 CINCINNATI
O4 at New Orleans
O11 PITTSBURGH
O18 at Atlanta
O26 at Cleveland (Mon.)
N1 SAN FRANCISCO
N8 NEW ORLEANS
N15 at St. Louis
N23 at Washington (Mon.)
N29 TAMPA BAY
D6 at Detroit
D13 ATLANTA
D21 DALLAS (Mon.)
D27 at San Francisco

1986 Results

at St. Louis 16-10
SAN FRANCISCO 16-13
at Indianapolis 24-7
at Philadelphia 20-34
TAMPA BAY* 26-20
at Atlanta 14-26
DETROIT 14-10
ATLANTA 14-7
at Chicago 20-17
at New Orleans 0-6
NEW ENGLAND 28-30
NEW ORLEANS 26-13
at N.Y. Jets 17-3
DALLAS 29-10
MIAMI* 31-37
at San Francisco 14-24

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

S13 DETROIT
S20 at L.A. Rams
S27 at Kansas City
O4 GREEN BAY
O11 at Chicago
O18 TAMPA BAY
O25 DENVER
N1 at Seattle
N8 L.A. RAIDERS
N15 at Tampa Bay
N22 ATLANTA
N26 at Dallas (Thanks.)
D6 CHICAGO
D13 vs. Green Bay at Mil.
D20 at Detroit
D26 WASHINGTON (Sat.)

DETROIT 10-13
at Tampa Bay 23-10
PITTSBURGH 31-7
GREEN BAY 42-7
at Chicago 0-23
at San Fran.* 27-24
CHICAGO 23-7
CLEVELAND 20-23
at Washington* 38-44
at Detroit 10-24
N.Y. GIANTS 20-22
at Cincinnati 20-24
TAMPA BAY 45-13
at Green Bay 32-6
at Houston 10-23
NEW ORLEANS 33-17

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

S13 CLEVELAND
S20 at Philadelphia
S27 ATLANTA
O4 L.A. RAMS
O11 at St. Louis
O18 at Chicago
O25 SAN FRANCISCO
N1 at Atlanta
N8 at L.A. Rams
N15 at San Francisco
N22 N.Y. GIANTS
N29 at Pittsburgh
D6 TAMPA BAY
D13 HOUSTON
D20 at Cincinnati
D27 GREEN BAY

ATLANTA 10-31
GREEN BAY 24-10
at San Francisco 17-26
at N.Y. Giants 17-20
WASHINGTON 6-14
at Indianapolis 17-14
TAMPA BAY 38-7
at N.Y. Jets 23-28
SAN FRANCISCO 23-10
L.A. RAMS 6-0
at St. Louis 16-7
at L.A. Rams 13-26
NEW ENGLAND 20-21
MIAMI 27-31
at Atlanta 14-9
at Minnesota 17-33

N.Y. GIANTS

S14 at Chicago (Mon.)
S20 DALLAS
S27 at Miami
O5 SAN FRAN. (Mon.)
O11 WASHINGTON
O18 at Buffalo
O25 ST. LOUIS
N2 at Dallas (Mon.)
N8 NEW ENGLAND
N15 at Philadelphia
N22 at New Orleans
N29 at Washington
D6 PHILADELPHIA
D13 at St. Louis
D19 GREEN BAY (Sat.)
D27 N.Y. JETS

at Dallas 28-31
SAN DIEGO 20-7
at L.A. Raiders 14-9
NEW ORLEANS 20-17
at St. Louis 13-6
PHILADELPHIA 35-3
at Seattle 12-17
WASHINGTON 27-20
DALLAS 17-14
at Philadelphia 17-14
at Minnesota 22-20
DENVER 19-16
at San Francisco 21-17
at Washington 24-14
ST. LOUIS 27-7
GREEN BAY 55-24

1987 Schedule

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

S13 at Washington
S20 NEW ORLEANS
S27 at San Francisco
O4 CHICAGO
O11 at Dallas
O18 at Green Bay
O25 DALLAS
N1 at St. Louis
N8 WASHINGTON
N15 N.Y. GIANTS
N22 ST. LOUIS
N29 at New England
D6 at N.Y. Giants
D13 MIAMI
D20 at N.Y. Jets
D27 BUFFALO

1986 Results

at Washington 14-41
at Chicago* 10-13
DENVER 7-33
L.A. RAMS 34-20
at Atlanta 16-0
at N.Y. Giants 3-35
DALLAS 14-17
SAN DIEGO 23-7
at St. Louis 10-13
N.Y. GIANTS 14-17
DETROIT 11-13
at Seattle 20-24
at L.A. Raiders* 33-27
ST. LOUIS* 10-10
at Dallas 23-21
WASHINGTON 14-21

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

S13 DALLAS
S20 at San Diego
S27 INDIANAPOLIS
O4 at Washington
O11 NEW ORLEANS
O18 at San Francisco
O25 at N.Y. Giants
N1 PHILADELPHIA
N8 TAMPA BAY
N15 L.A. RAMS
N22 at Philadelphia
N29 at Atlanta
D6 WASHINGTON
D13 N.Y. GIANTS
D20 at Tampa Bay
D27 at Dallas

L.A. RAMS 10-16
at Atlanta 13-33
at Buffalo 10-17
DALLAS 7-31
N.Y. GIANTS 6-13
at Tampa Bay 30-19
at Washington 21-28
at Dallas 6-37
PHILADELPHIA 13-10
at San Francisco 17-43
NEW ORLEANS 7-16
KANSAS CITY 23-14
WASHINGTON 17-20
at Philadelphia* 10-10
at N.Y. Giants 7-27
TAMPA BAY 21-17

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

S13 at Pittsburgh
S20 at Cincinnati
S27 PHILADELPHIA
O5 at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)
O11 ATLANTA
O18 ST. LOUIS
O25 at New Orleans
N1 at L.A. Rams
N8 HOUSTON
N15 NEW ORLEANS
N22 at Tampa Bay
N29 CLEVELAND
D6 at Green Bay
D14 CHICAGO (Mon.)
D20 at Atlanta
D27 L.A. RAMS

at Tampa Bay 31-7
at L.A. Rams 13-16
NEW ORLEANS 26-7
at Miami 31-16
INDIANAPOLIS 35-14
MINNESOTA* 24-27
at Atlanta* 10-10
Green Bay at Mil. 31-17
at New Orleans 10-23
ST. LOUIS 43-17
at Washington 6-14
ATLANTA 20-0
N.Y. GIANTS 17-21
N.Y. JETS 24-10
at New England 29-24
L.A. RAMS 24-14

TAMPA BAY BUCS

S13 ATLANTA
S20 at Chicago
S27 GREEN BAY
O4 at Detroit
O11 SAN DIEGO
O18 at Minnesota
O25 CHICAGO
N1 vs. Green Bay at Mil.
N8 at St. Louis
N15 MINNESOTA
N22 SAN FRANCISCO
N29 at L.A. Rams
D6 at New Orleans
D13 DETROIT
D20 ST. LOUIS
D27 at Indianapolis

SAN FRANCISCO 7-31
MINNESOTA 10-23
at Detroit 24-20
ATLANTA* 20-23
at L.A. Rams* 20-26
ST. LOUIS 19-30
at New Orleans 7-38
at Kansas City 20-27
BUFFALO 34-28
CHICAGO 3-23
Green Bay at Mil. 7-31
DETROIT 17-38
at Minnesota 13-45
at Chicago 14-48
GREEN BAY 7-21
at St. Louis 17-21

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

S13 PHILADELPHIA
S20 at Atlanta
S27 NEW ENGLAND
O4 ST. LOUIS
O11 at N.Y. Giants
O19 at Dallas (Mon.)
O25 N.Y. JETS
N1 at Buffalo
N8 at Philadelphia
N15 DETROIT
N23 L.A. RAMS (Mon.)
N29 N.Y. GIANTS
D6 at St. Louis
D13 DALLAS
D20 at Miami
D26 at Minnesota (Sat.)

PHILADELPHIA 41-14
L.A. RAIDERS 10-6
at San Diego 30-27
SEATTLE 19-14
at New Orleans 14-6
at Dallas 6-30
ST. LOUIS 28-21
at N.Y. Giants 20-27
MINNESOTA* 44-38
at Green Bay 16-7
SAN FRANCISCO 14-6
DALLAS 41-14
at St. Louis 20-17
N.Y. GIANTS 14-24
at Denver 30-31
at Philadelphia 21-14
*Overtime

1987 SCHEDULE 1986 RESULTS



*Home games are in capital letters;
dates abbreviated
to first initial of month.*

1987 Schedule

BUFFALO BILLS

S13 N.Y. JETS
S20 HOUSTON
S27 at Dallas
O4 INDIANAPOLIS
O11 at New England
O18 N.Y. GIANTS
O25 at Miami
N1 WASHINGTON
N8 DENVER
N15 at Cleveland
N22 at N.Y. Jets
N29 MIAMI
D6 at L.A. Raiders
D13 at Indianapolis
D20 NEW ENGLAND
D27 at Philadelphia

CINCINNATI BENGALS

S13 at Indianapolis
S20 SAN FRANCISCO
S27 at L.A. Rams
O4 SAN DIEGO
O11 at Seattle
O18 CLEVELAND
O25 at Pittsburgh
N1 HOUSTON
N8 MIAMI
N15 at Atlanta
N22 PITTSBURGH
N29 at N.Y. Jets
D6 KANSAS CITY
D13 at Cleveland
D20 NEW ORLEANS
D27 at Houston

CLEVELAND BROWNS

S13 at New Orleans
S20 PITTSBURGH
S28 DENVER (Mon.)
O4 at New England
O11 HOUSTON
O18 at Cincinnati
O26 L.A. RAMS (Mon.)
N1 at San Diego
N8 ATLANTA
N15 BUFFALO
N22 at Houston
N29 at San Francisco
D6 INDIANAPOLIS
D13 CINCINNATI
D20 at L.A. Raiders
D26 at Pittsburgh (Sat.)

DENVER BRONCOS

S13 SEATTLE
S20 Green Bay at Mil.
S28 at Cleveland (Mon.)
O4 HOUSTON
O12 L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)
O18 at Kansas City
O25 at Minnesota
N1 DETROIT
N8 at Buffalo
N16 CHICAGO (Mon.)
N22 at L.A. Raiders
N29 at San Diego
D6 NEW ENGLAND
D13 at Seattle
D19 KANSAS CITY (Sat.)
D27 SAN DIEGO

HOUSTON OILERS

S13 L.A. RAMS
S20 at Buffalo
S27 L.A. RAIDERS
O4 at Denver
O11 at Cleveland
O18 NEW ENGLAND
O25 ATLANTA
N1 at Cincinnati
N8 at San Francisco
N15 at Pittsburgh
N22 CLEVELAND
N29 at Indianapolis
D6 SAN DIEGO
D13 at New Orleans
D20 PITTSBURGH
D27 CINCINNATI

1986 Results

N.Y. JETS 24-28
at Cincinnati* 33-36
ST. LOUIS 17-10
KANSAS CITY 17-20
at N.Y. Jets 13-14
at Miami 14-27
INDIANAPOLIS 24-13
NEW ENGLAND 3-23
at Tampa Bay 28-34
PITTSBURGH 16-12
MIAMI 24-34
at New England 19-22
at Kansas City 17-14
CLEVELAND 17-21
at Indianapolis 14-24
at Houston 7-16

at Kansas City 14-24
BUFFALO* 36-33
at Cleveland 30-13
CHICAGO 7-44
at Green Bay 34-28
PITTSBURGH 24-22
HOUSTON 31-28
at Pittsburgh 9-30
at Detroit 24-17
at Houston 28-32
SEATTLE 34-7
MINNESOTA 24-20
at Denver 28-34
at New England 31-7
CLEVELAND 3-34
N.Y. JETS 52-21

at Chicago 31-41
at Houston 23-20
CINCINNATI 13-30
DETROIT 24-21
at Pittsburgh 27-24
KANSAS CITY 20-7
GREEN BAY 14-7
at Minnesota 23-20
at Indianapolis 24-9
MIAMI 26-16
at L.A. Raiders 14-27
PITTSBURGH* 37-31
HOUSTON* 13-10
at Buffalo 21-17
at Cincinnati 34-3
SAN DIEGO 47-17

L.A. RAIDERS 38-36
at Pittsburgh 21-10
at Philadelphia 33-7
NEW ENGLAND 27-20
DALLAS 29-14
at San Diego 31-14
at N.Y. Jets 10-22
SEATTLE 20-13
at L.A. Raiders 21-10
SAN DIEGO 3-9
KANSAS CITY 38-17
at N.Y. Giants 16-19
CINCINNATI 34-28
at Kansas City 10-37
WASHINGTON 31-30
at Seattle 16-41

at Green Bay 31-3
CLEVELAND 20-23
at Kansas City 13-27
PITTSBURGH* 16-22
at Detroit 13-24
CHICAGO 7-20
at Cincinnati 28-31
L.A. RAIDERS 17-28
at Miami 7-28
CINCINNATI 32-28
at Pittsburgh 10-21
INDIANAPOLIS 31-17
at Cleveland* 10-13
at San Diego 0-27
MINNESOTA 23-10
BUFFALO 16-7

1987 Schedule

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

S13 CINCINNATI
S20 MIAMI
S27 at St. Louis
O4 at Buffalo
O11 N.Y. JETS
O18 at Pittsburgh
O25 NEW ENGLAND
N1 at N.Y. Jets
N8 SAN DIEGO
N15 at Miami
N22 at New England
N29 HOUSTON
D6 at Cleveland
D13 BUFFALO
D20 at San Diego
D27 TAMPA BAY

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

S13 SAN DIEGO
S20 at Seattle
S27 MINNESOTA
O4 at L.A. Raiders
O11 at Miami
O18 DENVER
O25 at San Diego
N1 at Chicago
N8 PITTSBURGH
N15 N.Y. JETS
N22 GREEN BAY
N26 at Detroit (Thanks.)
D6 at Cincinnati
D13 L.A. RAIDERS
D19 at Denver (Sat.)
D27 SEATTLE

L.A. RAIDERS

S13 at Green Bay
S20 DETROIT
S27 at Houston
O4 KANSAS CITY
O12 at Denver (Mon.)
O18 SAN DIEGO
O25 SEATTLE
N1 at New England
N8 at Minnesota
N15 at San Diego
N22 DENVER
N30 at Seattle (Mon.)
D6 BUFFALO
D13 at Kansas City
D20 CLEVELAND
D27 CHICAGO

MIAMI DOLPHINS

S13 at New England
S20 at Indianapolis
S27 N.Y. GIANTS
O4 at Seattle
O11 KANSAS CITY
O18 at N.Y. Jets
O25 BUFFALO
N1 PITTSBURGH
N8 at Cincinnati
N15 INDIANAPOLIS
N22 at Dallas
N29 at Buffalo
D7 N.Y. JETS (Mon.)
D13 at Philadelphia
D20 WASHINGTON
D28 NEW ENG. (Mon.)

1986 Results

at New England 3-33
at Miami 10-30
L.A. RAMS 7-24
N.Y. JETS* 7-26
at San Francisco 14-35
NEW ORLEANS 14-17
at Buffalo 13-24
MIAMI 13-17
CLEVELAND 9-24
NEW ENGLAND 21-30
at N.Y. Jets 16-31
at Houston 17-31
SAN DIEGO 3-17
at Atlanta 28-23
BUFFALO 24-14
at L.A. Raiders 30-24

CINCINNATI 24-13
at Seattle 17-23
HOUSTON 27-13
at Buffalo 20-17
L.A. RAIDERS 17-24
at Cleveland 7-20
SAN DIEGO 42-41
TAMPA BAY 27-20
at San Diego 24-23
SEATTLE 27-7
at Denver 17-38
at St. Louis 14-23
BUFFALO 14-17
DENVER 37-10
at L.A. Raiders 20-17
at Pittsburgh 24-19

at Denver 36-38
at Washington 6-10
N.Y. GIANTS 9-14
SAN DIEGO 17-13
at Kansas City 24-17
SEATTLE 14-10
at Miami 30-28
at Houston 28-17
DENVER 10-21
at Dallas 17-13
CLEVELAND 27-14
at San Diego* 37-31
PHILADELPHIA* 27-33
at Seattle 0-37
KANSAS CITY 17-20
INDIANAPOLIS 24-30

at San Diego 28-50
INDIANAPOLIS 30-10
at N.Y. Jets* 45-51
SAN FRANCISCO 16-31
at New England 7-34
BUFFALO 27-14
L.A. RAIDERS 28-30
at Indianapolis 17-13
HOUSTON 28-7
at Cleveland 16-26
at Buffalo 34-24
N.Y. JETS 45-3
ATLANTA 14-20
at New Orleans 31-27
at L.A. Rams* 37-31
NEW ENGLAND 27-34

1987 Schedule

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

S13 MIAMI
S21 at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)
S27 at Washington
O4 CLEVELAND
O11 BUFFALO
O18 at Houston
O25 at Indianapolis
N1 L.A. RAIDERS
N8 at N.Y. Giants
N15 DALLAS
N22 INDIANAPOLIS
N29 PHILADELPHIA
D6 at Denver
D13 N.Y. JETS
D20 at Buffalo
D28 at Miami (Mon.)

N.Y. JETS

S13 at Buffalo
S21 NEW ENG. (Mon.)
S27 at Pittsburgh
O4 DALLAS
O11 at Indianapolis
O18 MIAMI
O25 at Washington
N1 INDIANAPOLIS
N9 SEATTLE (Mon.)
N15 at Kansas City
N22 BUFFALO
N29 CINCINNATI
D7 at Miami (Mon.)
D13 at New England
D20 PHILADELPHIA
D27 at N.Y. Giants

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

S13 SAN FRANCISCO
S20 at Cleveland
S27 N.Y. JETS
O4 at Atlanta
O11 at L.A. Rams
O18 INDIANAPOLIS
O25 CINCINNATI
N1 at Miami
N8 at Kansas City
N15 HOUSTON
N22 at Cincinnati
N29 NEW ORLEANS
D6 SEATTLE
D13 at San Diego
D20 at Houston
D26 CLEVELAND (Sat.)

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

S13 at Kansas City
S20 ST. LOUIS
S27 SEATTLE
O4 at Cincinnati
O11 at Tampa Bay
O18 at L.A. Raiders
O25 KANSAS CITY
N1 CLEVELAND
N8 at Indianapolis
N15 L.A. RAIDERS
N22 at Seattle
N29 DENVER
D6 at Houston
D13 PITTSBURGH
D20 INDIANAPOLIS
D27 at Denver

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

S13 at Denver
S20 KANSAS CITY
S27 at San Diego
O4 MIAMI
O11 CINCINNATI
O18 at Detroit
O25 at L.A. Raiders
N1 MINNESOTA
N9 at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)
N15 GREEN BAY
N22 SAN DIEGO
N30 L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)
D6 at Pittsburgh
D13 DENVER
D20 at Chicago
D27 at Kansas City

1986 Results

INDIANAPOLIS 33-3
at N.Y. Jets 20-6
SEATTLE 31-38
at Denver 20-27
MIAMI 34-7
N.Y. JETS 24-31
at Pittsburgh 34-0
at Buffalo 23-3
ATLANTA 25-17
at Indianapolis 30-21
at L.A. Rams 30-28
BUFFALO 22-19
at New Orleans 21-20
CINCINNATI 7-31
SAN FRANCISCO 24-29
at Miami 34-27

at Buffalo 28-24
NEW ENGLAND 6-20
MIAMI* 51-45
at Indianapolis 26-7
BUFFALO 14-13
at New England 31-24
DENVER 22-10
NEW ORLEANS 28-23
at Seattle 38-7
at Atlanta 28-14
INDIANAPOLIS 31-16
at Miami 3-45
L.A. RAMS 3-17
at San Francisco 10-24
PITTSBURGH 24-45
at Cincinnati 21-52

at Seattle 0-30
DENVER 10-21
at Minnesota 7-31
at Houston* 22-16
CLEVELAND 24-27
at Cincinnati 22-24
NEW ENGLAND 0-34
CINCINNATI 30-9
GREEN BAY 27-3
at Buffalo 12-16
HOUSTON 21-10
at Cleveland* 31-37
at Chicago* 10-13
DETROIT 27-17
at N.Y. Jets 45-24
KANSAS CITY 19-24

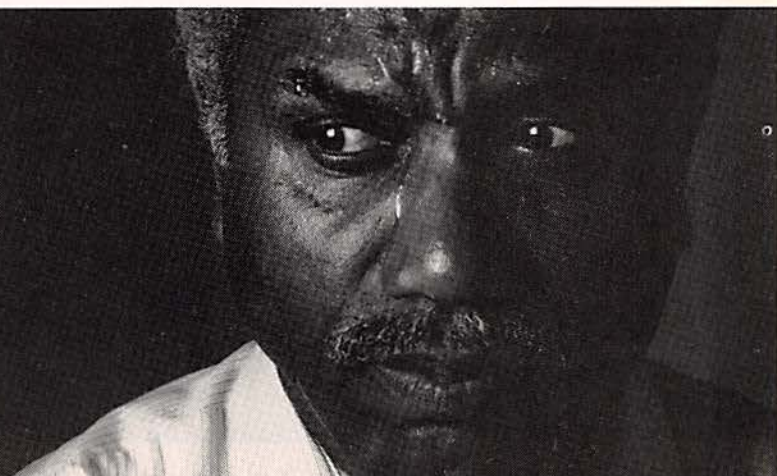
MIAMI 50-28
at N.Y. Giants 7-20
WASHINGTON 27-30
at L.A. Raiders 13-17
at Seattle 7-33
DENVER 14-31
at Kansas City 41-42
at Philadelphia 7-23
KANSAS CITY 23-24
at Denver 9-3
DALLAS 21-24
L.A. RAIDERS* 31-37
at Indianapolis 17-3
HOUSTON 27-0
SEATTLE 24-34
at Cleveland 17-47

PITTSBURGH 30-0
KANSAS CITY 23-17
at New England 38-31
at Washington 14-19
SAN DIEGO 33-7
at L.A. Raiders 10-14
N.Y. GIANTS 17-12
at Denver 13-20
N.Y. JETS 7-38
at Kansas City 7-27
at Cincinnati 7-34
PHILADELPHIA 24-20
at Dallas 31-14
L.A. RAIDERS 37-0
at San Diego 34-24
DENVER 41-16
*Overtime

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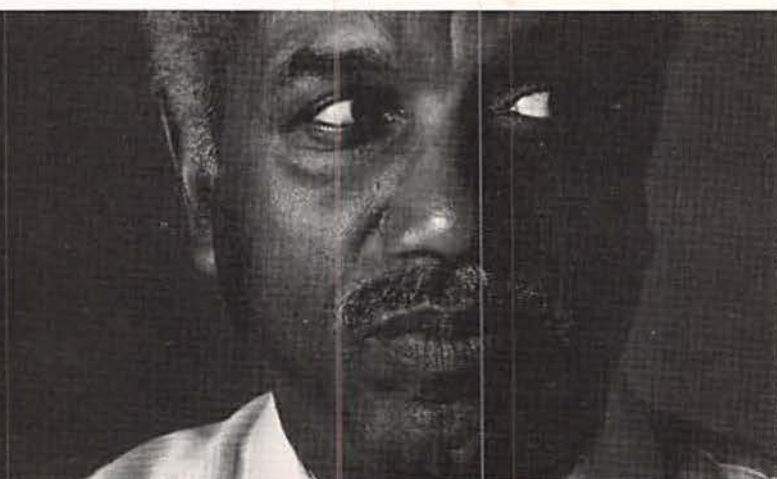
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“

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”



“

Hallelujah.

”



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Last year's AFC East race wasn't decided until the final 44 seconds of the final Monday night game, when New England clinched the title. The real party may just be starting, now that even Indianapolis comes into the season with a three-game winning streak. It should be a very competitive race once again.

NEW ENGLAND—Usually an 11-5 record and a division championship is cause for celebration.

But, because the Patriots had been to Super Bowl XX the year before, they found 1986 to be a letdown—and they see 1987 as a chance for redemption. New England's "comeback" likely hinges on how well its running game comes back.

Last year all-pro offensive guard John Hannah retired and then a series of injuries hit.

As a result, the Patriots went from being the league's sixth-best rushing team to its worst, a weakness that received prominent airing in a playoff loss at Denver.

The silver lining in this black cloud is how well quarterback Tony Eason compensated with his arm. Defenses knew Eason had little choice but to throw, yet he still completed 61.6 percent of his 448 passes for 3,328 yards, 19 touchdowns, and the NFL's fourth-highest quarterback rating (89.2). He threw just 10 interceptions, none until November.

Still, 13-year veteran Steve Grogan makes a perfect safety net, in addition to calling Eason's plays for him from the sideline. Grogan threw 9 touchdowns passes himself, completing 60.8 percent of his attempts.

As Eason prospered, so did wide receiver Stanley Morgan, who caught 84 passes for an AFC-leading 1,491 yards and 10 touchdowns. Irving Fryar had 43 for 737 with 6 touchdowns as the other wide receiver, and, like Morgan, averaged more than 17 yards a catch.

Tony Collins compensated for a frustrating year running (412 yards) by catching 77 passes out of the backfield. Rookie tight end Greg Baty added 37 catches with veteran Lin Dawson missing the entire season because of a severe knee injury incurred in the Super Bowl.

With the passing game in good hands, head coach Raymond Berry will devote much of his efforts to fixing the running game.

Toward that end, the Patriots traded three draft choices to Tampa Bay for guard Sean Farrell, who should make life without Hannah easier to endure. Nobody will be happier to see Farrell than Craig James.



Jets running back Johnny Hector.

James gained 1,227 yards (4.7 per rush) in 1985, but his numbers fell to a disappointing 427 and 2.8 in 1986 as he battled to overcome a knee strain. He'll also be trying to recover from offseason shoulder surgery. Reggie Dupard, whose rookie year was a total loss because of turf toe, provides depth.

Up front, Farrell figures to start out competing with Darryl Haley for the right tackle job, but he also might get a look at left guard, where Paul Fairchild had the unenviable task of following Hannah. Center Pete Brock, right guard Ron Wooten, and left tackle Brian Holloway, all veterans, man the other spots.

Defensively, the secondary was the brightest spot last season, and it returns intact with venerable Raymond Clayborn, a Pro Bowl selection, and Ronnie Lippett at the cornerback positions. The team's top two tacklers, Fred Marion and Roland James, are the safeties. Teams tried to do their business away from Clayborn's side, but Lippett's 8 interceptions thwarted that strategy.

The line will get a boost if end Kenneth Sims is recovered from disk surgery to fix an injury that kept him out of 13 games in 1986. Rookie Brent Williams (7 sacks) played in his place next to nose tackle Toby Williams and right end Garin Veris, who had 11 sacks.

The linebacking also can prosper from better luck. Three-time AFC-NFC Pro Bowl participant Steve Nelson (inside) missed the last five games with a knee injury, and 1985 AFC defensive player of the year Andre Tippett (outside), victim of another knee injury, had

to sit out five in the middle of the season.

Outside linebacker Don Blackmon (7½ sacks), plus versatile inside backers Johnny Rembert and Lawrence McGrew, picked up some slack, but the Patriots still fell to twenty-fourth against the run, compared to their number-six ranking versus the pass.

Kicker Tony Franklin was a potent offensive force, leading the NFL in scoring with 140 points and averaging two field goals per game. Minor offseason surgery on both knees was done to make him feel that much better in 1987. Punter Rich Camarillo was third in the AFC with a 42.1 average.

And tough, durable Mosi Tatupu was a Pro Bowl selection for his unselfish, hard-hitting play on special teams.

NEW YORK JETS—Last season was the best of times and the worst of times for the Jets. They free-fell from a league-best 10-1 record to 10-6, yet recovered enough to win the AFC Wild Card Game with Kansas City. Then they almost knocked off Central Division champion Cleveland in a 77-minute overtime game.

Head coach Joe Walton has just one question: Will the real Jets please stand up?

Actually, many of them couldn't at one time or another. New York's year-end collapse was triggered by a crippling rash of injuries that felled six AFC Pro Bowl players and 12 starters, who missed a total of 50 games. It seemed Walton had a different lineup every week, even when the Jets were winning.

Left cornerback Kerry Glenn (foot) missed 15 games. Linebacker Lance Mehl (knee) was scratched from eight games and finished the year on injured reserve. Center Joe Fields (knee) sat out seven. Nose tackle Joe Klecko (knee) and defensive left end Mark Gastineau (knee, groin) were absent for six. Defensive right end Marty Lyons (shoulder) and running back Freeman McNeil (elbow) couldn't play in four. Right corner Russell Carter wasn't available for three.

In this war zone, the defense suffered. Not one Jets defender started at the same position for all 16 games, and New York tumbled from eighth in the NFL in 1985 to twenty-sixth with a dead-last finish against the pass.

Dominating outside linebacker Andre Tippett of New England has gone to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl the last three years. He had 9½ sacks in 1986.

Al Messersmith



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Equally distressing, however, was quarterback Ken O'Brien's late slump, which got him benched in favor of 10-year pro Pat Ryan for the playoffs. O'Brien threw 14 interceptions over the last half of the season, compared to 6 in the first half. Even so, his 3,690 yards and 25 touchdown passes mean he'll be given every opportunity to reclaim his job.

McNeil ran for 856 yards and caught 49 passes, despite his shortened season, then added 206 more rushing yards in the playoffs. Johnny Hector contributed 605 with 8 touchdowns and 33 receptions, although he missed most of four games himself with foot and thumb injuries. Fullback Tony Paige is primarily a blocker.

When together, the line of left tackle Jim Sweeney, left guard Guy Bingham, center Joe Fields, right guard Dan Alexander, and right tackle Gordon King played solidly, although cutting down on the 45 sacks they allowed would help O'Brien's confidence.

The return of Stan Waldemore, who missed the entire season with a knee injury, Ted Banker, and Reggie McElroy will add to the competition up front.

Wide receivers Al Toon and Wesley Walker and tight end Mickey Shuler had little in common with most of their teammates. They stayed healthy all season and it showed in the statistics. Toon was the NFL's third-leading receiver with 85 catches for 1,176 yards and 8 touchdowns, while Walker, ever the bomb threat, had 49 for 1,016 (20.7 per catch) and 12 touchdowns. Shuler caught 69 and scored four times. Toon and Shuler were named to the Pro Bowl.

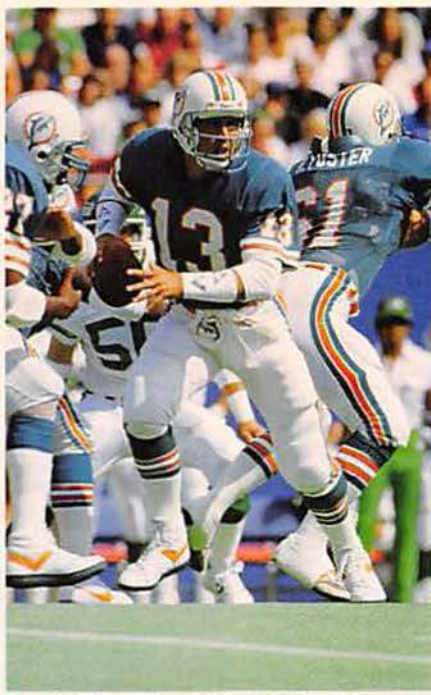
It is assumed a mended Klecko will reclaim his nose-tackle spot, and Gastineau, who managed just two of the Jets' meager 28 sacks, will return on the left side, with Marty Lyons moving back to right end. Bob Crable and Rusty Guilbeau are the outside linebackers, with Mehl and Kyle Clifton (the Jets' leading tackler) inside. However, Klecko and Mehl may not be ready until October.

Glenn will have to struggle to regain the left corner job from Jerry Holmes (6 interceptions). Carter is the right corner, Lester Lyles (5 interceptions) the strong safety, and Harry Hamilton the free safety. None are 100 percent secure, however, not after surrendering 35 touchdown passes and 274 passing yards per game. Johnny Lynn is around when needed at any of the deep-back positions.

The placekicking remains in good shape, with Jets career scoring leader Pat Leahy, who scored 92 points and made 16 of 19 field goals last season. Punter Dave Jennings averaged only 39.4 per kick, but was third in the AFC with a 36.1-yard net average.

Bobby Humphery averaged 23.4 yards on kickoffs, tying for second in the AFC. He had one touchdown return for 96 yards. JoJo Townsell also returned kickoffs (13 for a 24.8 average). He ran one back 93 yards for a touchdown.

MIAMI—Miami scored 27 or more points 11 times, yet finished only 8-8 and missed the playoffs for the first time since 1980.



Dan Marino passed for 4,746 yards.

One game pretty much sums up the entire season: Miami lost in overtime to the Jets 51-45. The Dolphins were first in the NFL in scoring and second in total offense. They were tied for twenty-sixth in defense.

Head coach Don Shula will be celebrating his twenty-fifth season as a head coach, and he did not get to be the game's winningest active coach by treating defense nonchalantly.

He shook up his coaching staff, and his defensive depth chart may be next, if the right prospects surface. A step in the right direction last year was drafting right inside linebacker John Offerdahl, who led the team in tackles and went to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl.

The thing is, the Dolphins don't need a huge amount of defense to return to the Super Bowl hunt, not with Dan Marino's arm. Marino has thrown 142 touchdown passes in four NFL seasons and his 44 last year were 19 more than runner-up Ken O'Brien's 25. His 4,746 yards put him 637 ahead of number-two, Washington's Jay Schroeder. Amazing.

It helps, of course, to have targets such as Mark Duper and Mark Clayton and a zealously protective offensive line. Pro Bowl center Dwight Stephenson was the fulcrum in a front

AFC EAST	New England	New York Jets	Miami	Buffalo	Indianapolis
Season	11-5	10-6	8-8	4-12	3-13
Second Half	6-2	3-5	5-3	2-6	3-5
vs. AFC East	7-1	6-2	5-3	1-7	1-7
vs. AFC	8-4	8-4	6-6	3-11	2-10
vs. NFC	3-1	2-2	2-2	1-1	1-3
at Home	4-4	5-3	4-4	3-5	1-7
on Road	7-1	5-3	4-4	1-7	2-6
on Artificial Turf	9-4	9-4	3-2	4-10	1-11
on Grass Fields	2-1	1-2	5-6	0-2	2-2
Points (NFL Rank)	25.8 (2)	22.8 (11)	26.9 (1)	17.9 (20)	14.3 (27)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	19.2 (10)	24.1 (22)	25.3 (26)	21.8 (20)	25.0 (25)
Yards (NFL Rank)	332.9 (13)	335.9 (11)	395.3 (2)	313.6 (19)	293.8 (22)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	323.8 (16)	378.1 (26T)	378.1 (26T)	345.2 (24)	356.3 (25)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	85.8 (28)	108.1 (18)	96.6 (25)	103.4 (21)	93.2 (26)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	137.7 (24)	103.8 (6)	155.8 (27)	107.6 (9)	122.6 (17)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	247.1 (4)	227.9 (9)	298.7 (1)	210.2 (15)	200.6 (16)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	186.1 (6)	274.3 (28)	222.3 (22)	237.6 (27)	233.7 (26)
Turnover +/− (NFL Rank)	+16 (2)	+1 (13)	−10 (22T)	−21 (28)	−9 (21)

A man in a light blue shirt and khaki pants is painting a large, abstract mural on a wall. The mural features bold, geometric shapes in red, green, and black. The man is standing on a wooden floor, and there are various paint cans and brushes around him. A ladder is visible on the left side of the frame. The scene is set in a workshop or studio with a corrugated metal ceiling.

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Buffalo is excited about Jim Kelly.

of tackles Jon Giesler (when healthy), Jeff Dellenbach (replaced Giesler), and Greg Koch and guards Roy Foster and Ronnie Lee. They surrendered a league-low 17 sacks.

With that kind of shield, Marino had all day to look for Duper and Clayton, and he almost always found them. Duper was picked for the Pro Bowl on the strength of his 67 catches for 1,313 yards and 11 touchdowns, but Clayton, who replaced him in the game after an injury, was hardly an afterthought with his 60 for 1,150 and 10 touchdowns. They averaged 19.6 and 19.2 yards-per-catch, respectively.

Marino made a double threat of running back Lorenzo Hampton, who ran for 830 yards and all of Miami's 9 rushing touchdowns but also scored three more times on 61 receptions. Ron Davenport ran for 314 yards and caught 20 passes for 177 yards. Tight end Bruce Hardy had 54 catches, running back Tony Nathan 48, and backup wide receiver Nat Moore 38, 7 for touchdowns.

Unfortunately, the downside to all this scoring has been the opponents' next offensive series, because that's when another kind of adventure starts. Except for Offerdahl, what used to be called the Killer Bees defense isn't very deadly anymore.

The front three of T.J. Turner, Bob Baumhower, and George Little (4 sacks) has ability, but the group lacked consistency, especially against the run. After replacing Hugh Green, who was injured in the third game against the Jets, right outside linebacker Mark Brown netted a team-high 5 sacks blitzing, something the Dolphins are expected to do more of in 1987 rather than play cautiously, which obviously didn't work.

Bob Brudzinski has 11 seasons of experience in his favor at the left outside spot, but, given his age, he's vulnerable to any shakeup Shula may have in mind. Fred Robinson, acquired from San Diego, is a possible replacement. The left inside linebacker, next to Offerdahl, will be either Jackie Shipp, who started the first 14 games last year, or Larry Kolic, who started the last two.

The starting secondary of left corner Reyna Thompson, right corner William Judson, strong safety Glenn Blackwood, and free

BEHIND THE DRAFT

The ghost of John Hannah influenced New England's first-round selection of offensive lineman Bruce Armstrong, even though the Patriots already had traded their second pick to Tampa Bay for five-year veteran guard Sean Farrell. Hannah retired in 1986, and New England's running game plunged to last in the NFL, but Armstrong, a 6-4, 280-pounder from Louisville, and Farrell should make an immediate difference. The Patriots must decide where to play Armstrong. He's a converted tight end who will be tested at both guard and tackle. Michigan running back Bob Perryman was selected in the third round.

The New York Jets were expected to follow the lead of the three division teams that drafted ahead of them and seek a quick fix for their injury-riddled defense, but they made fullback Roger Vick of Texas A&M a surprising first pick instead. The reason? More emphasis on a two-back offense in the future to take the load off Freeman McNeil and Johnny Hector and give them the protection of a big back's blocking. The 6-2½, 230-pound Vick rushed for 960 yards as a senior. The Jets' next three selections were defensive players: Alex Gordon, a 6-4, 242-pound blitz-specialist linebacker from Cincinnati; Onzy Elam, a linebacker from Tennessee State, and defensive back Kirby Jackson of Mississippi State.

Miami is hoping to put the big play back in its struggling defense, and the Dolphins got the player they wanted in the first round in defensive end John Bosa. The 6-4, 255-pound Bosa sacked the quarterback 10½ times and had 13 other tackles behind the line of scrimmage as a Boston College senior. Second-round choice Rick Graf, an outside linebacker from Wisconsin, offers insurance in case veteran Hugh Green isn't fully recovered from his knee injury. Miami traded its third and fifth choices for another second-round pick and took wide receiver/kick returner Scott Schwedes of Syracuse.

Given the Bills' twenty-seventh-ranked pass defense last season, Buffalo's draft-day objectives hardly were secret. Number-one pick Shane Conlan, a quick-thinking, 6-3, 228-pound outside linebacker from Penn State, had a knack in college for reading quarterbacks, then making big interceptions—and he's from the Buffalo area to boot. The Bills then used both second-round choices on cornerbacks: super-quick All-America Nathaniel Odomes of Wisconsin and Roland Mitchell of Texas Tech. Memphis State linebacker David Brandon came aboard as the first of two third-round picks. The other third provided Benedictine fullback Jamie Mueller to bolster Buffalo's twenty-first-ranked running game.

Indianapolis spurned numerous pre-draft overtures and used the second pick overall

for outside linebacker Cornelius Bennett, the Lombardi Award winner from Alabama who could be the second coming of Lawrence Taylor. Linebackers already were the team's strong suit and, with the 6-2, 235-pound Bennett, the Colts can start four first-round picks at the position. They didn't have a selection in the second round, but third-round choice Chris Gambol, a 6-6, 298-pound tackle from Iowa, also is being counted upon to win a spot in the lineup as a rookie. Sixth-round choice Freddie Robinson might do the same in the undermanned secondary.

1987 Draft Choices

NEW ENGLAND		
Round	Player	Position
1.	Bruce Armstrong	T
3.	Bob Perryman	RB
4.	Rich Gannon	QB
4.	Derrick Beasley	DB
4.	Tim Jordan	LB
5.	Danny Villa	T
5.	Tom Gibson	DE
6.	Gene Taylor	WR
11.	Carlos Reveliz	K
12.	Elgin Davis	RB
College		
		Louisville
		Michigan
		Delaware
		Winston-Salem
		Wisconsin
		Arizona State
		Northern Arizona
		Fresno State
		Tennessee
		Central Florida

NEW YORK JETS		
Round	Player	Position
1.	Roger Vick	RB
2.	Alex Gordon	LB
3.	Onzy Elam	LB
5.	Kirby Jackson	DB
6.	Tracy Martin	WR
7.	Gerald Nichols	NT
8.	Eddie Hunter	RB
8.	Mike Rice	P
9.	Ron McLean	DE
10.	Sid Lewis	DB
11.	Kirk Timmer	LB
12.	Bill Ransdell	QB
College		
		Texas A&M
		Cincinnati
		Tennessee State
		Mississippi State
		North Dakota
		Florida State
		Virginia Tech
		Montana
		Cal State-Fullerton
		Penn State
		Montana State
		Kentucky

MIAMI		
Round	Player	Position
1.	John Bosa	DE
2.	Rick Graf	LB
2.	Scott Schwedes	WR
4.	Troy Stradford	RB
5.	Chris Conlin	T
6.	Lance Sellers	LB
7.	Tom Brown	RB
8.	Joel Williams	TE
8.	Mark Dennis	T
9.	Tim Pidgeon	LB
10.	Bobby Taylor	DB
11.	Terence Mann	NT
12.	Jim Karsatos	QB
College		
		Boston College
		Wisconsin
		Syracuse
		Boston College
		Penn State
		Boise State
		Pittsburgh
		Notre Dame
		Illinois
		Syracuse
		Wisconsin
		Southern Methodist
		Ohio State

BUFFALO		
Round	Player	Position
1.	Shane Conlan	LB
2.	Nathaniel Odomes	DB
2.	Roland Mitchell	DB
3.	David Brandon	LB
3.	Jamie Mueller	RB
4.	Leon Seals	DE
7.	Kerry Porter	RB
8.	Bruce Mesner	DE
9.	Keith McKeller	TE
11.	Howard Ballard	T
12.	Joe McGrail	DT
College		
		Penn State
		Wisconsin
		Texas Tech
		Memphis State
		Benedictine
		Jackson State
		Washington State
		Maryland
		Jacksonville State
		Alabama A&M
		Delaware

INDIANAPOLIS		
Round	Player	Position
1.	Cornelius Bennett	LB
3.	Chris Gambol	T
4.	Randy Dixon	T
5.	Roy Banks	WR
6.	Freddie Robinson	DB
7.	Mark Bellini	WR
8.	Chuckie Miller	DB
9.	Bob Ontko	LB
10.	Chris Goode	DB
11.	Jim Reynosa	DE
12.	David Adams	RB
College		
		Alabama
		Iowa
		Pittsburgh
		Eastern Illinois
		Alabama
		Brigham Young
		UCLA
		Penn State
		Alabama
		Arizona State
		Arizona

safety Bud Brown had just five interceptions collectively. And only two teams intercepted fewer passes than Miami's total of 13.

On the special teams, placekicker Fuad Reveiz made 14 of 22 field goals, while Reggie Roby did his best to help the defense with the NFL's third-best gross punting average (44.2) and best net punting average (37.4).

"What we really need on defense are one or two players who can make us better in each of the areas," Shula said. "We've got to get a lot stronger in a hurry."

BUFFALO—The Bills lost 12 of 16 games in 1986, but their mood is upbeat going into the new season.

Why? Because both the coach and the quarterback will have a training camp—together.

Jim Kelly, a superstar in the short-lived USFL, had to learn the NFL game by the seat of his pants after signing at the end of the pre-season, yet he progressed steadily, throwing 13 touchdown passes against just 5 interceptions over the final eight games.

Unfortunately, his team didn't tag along, which is why Marv Levy replaced Hank Bullough as head coach after nine games.

Quarterback, at least, is not a concern as the Bills fight to regain their playoff form of 1980-81. Kelly passed for 3,593 yards and 22 touchdowns, numbers that should be just a preview of things to come, assuming his support improves.

Forty-five sacks, for example, placed "The Franchise" in far too much jeopardy, and the Bills would do well to improve their running attack, which finished twenty-first in the league. The rebuilding offensive line holds the key in both areas with center Kent Hull and right guard Will Wolford just second-year NFL players like Kelly.

But tackles Ken Jones and Joe Devlin are 12- and 11-year pros, respectively, and left guard Jim Ritcher is in his eighth season. There's no shortage of leadership there.

Running back Robb Riddick, little used in three previous seasons because of injuries, had two 100-yard games in a 632-yard year. He also caught 49 passes for 468 more to overshadow top draft choice Ronnie Harmon (172 yards rushing) and help compensate for Greg Bell's struggle with a groin strain, which kept him out of nine games. Bell rushed for 1,100 yards in 1984, 883 in 1985, and 377 in 1986.

Wide receiver Jerry Butler was another hard-luck case. He's trying to return from a broken leg, which cut his 1986 season five weeks short and limited him to 15 catches.

Wide receiver Andre Reed wound up the Bills' leader with 53 catches for 739 yards and 7 touchdowns although he finished the season on a bad knee. Tight end Pete Metzelaars contributed 49 catches, and the other wide receiver, Chris Burkett, added 34 (and a 22.9-yard average) in 14 games.

While the Bills lost an AFC-high 20 fumbles—tying the Colts—and were intercepted 19 times, their defense was unresponsive in kind, forcing a paltry 18 turnovers for a net differential of minus-21, the NFL's poorest.



Colts nose tackle Harvey Armstrong.

Buffalo had just one big-play defender, but he was exceptional. Right end Bruce Smith recorded 15 sacks in his second pro season to account for 42 percent of the team total. Sean McNanie had a respectable 6½ coming from the left end, and veteran nose tackle Fred Smerlas remains a formidable anchor.

Elsewhere, the Bills were less imposing, especially with inside linebacker Jim Haslett missing the entire season with a broken leg. Eugene Marve, the Bills' leading tackler, started all 16 games and was joined inside by Ray Bentley, who started the last seven. Darryl Talley started 16 games at outside linebacker and could line up with Lucius Sanford, if Sanford recovers from a back problem.

Buffalo had the league's ninth-ranked defense against the run, but only the Jets allowed more passing yards. Charles Romes, a starter at right corner for 140 consecutive games, intercepted 4 passes, one fewer than all the Bills' other defensive backs combined.

Ron Pitts will push Rodney Bellinger at left corner, while Dwight Drane and Martin Bayless are the front-runners at safety.

Scott Norwood's limited field-goal kicking range (he was 3 for 13 outside the 40) has Levy concerned, but the way Kelly can move the ball, that problem may be less than critical. Punter John Kidd averaged 40.4.

INDIANAPOLIS—The Colts were among the hottest teams in football at the end of 1986.

Unfortunately, they also were the coldest for the first 13 weeks. But if ever there was a reason to feel good at the end of a 3-13 year, Indianapolis had it.

Ron Meyer, who coached the Colts to their 3-0 finish after replacing Rod Dowhower, believes he has a winner at quarterback in Gary Hogeboom, who returned after recuperating from a separated shoulder, to lead the stunning turnaround. Behind Hogeboom, Indianapolis scored 82 points in the three victories compared to 147 in its 13 losses.

In his limited Colts debut, the former Dallas Cowboys backup quarterback passed for 1,154 yards and 6 touchdowns with 6 interceptions, completing 59 percent.

Rookie Jack Trudeau, who started 11

games, passed for 2,225 yards and 8 touchdowns but was intercepted 18 times. Under Trudeau, the Colts spent so much time playing catch-up they almost had to ignore their running game, which plunged from first in the AFC in 1985 to twelfth last season.

Meyer's number-one priority is to restore balance. With a sturdy core of linemen, it's not a pipe dream. Center Ray Donaldson and left tackle Chris Hinton were AFC-NFC Pro Bowl selections. Right guard Ron Solt is a muscular 280-pounder. Right tackle Kevin Call was a 16-game starter whose improvement mirrored that of the Colts, and Ben Utt is expected to reclaim his left guard spot after missing the last seven weeks with a knee injury. However, Meyer wants better protection from this group, after they allowed 53 sacks.

Wide receivers Matt Bouza (71) and Bill Brooks (65) had 136 receptions for 1,961 yards, 1,131 by Brooks. Their 13 touchdowns ranked fifth among starting NFL tandems. Tight end Pat Beach again was a steady contributor with 25 catches.

The Colts' running game suffered a blow last spring when fullback Randy McMillan, who started all 16 games and led the team with 609 yards rushing (858 in 1985) suffered a broken leg when he was hit by a car. He could be out for the season.

Veteran running backs returning include Albert Bentley (351 yards, 4.8 average), Owen Gill (228 yards), and George Wonsley (214). Bentley gained 162 the last weekend in the Colts' morale-building victory over the Los Angeles Raiders.

The stiffest competition defensively will be in the secondary, where improvement is needed. The Colts were twenty-sixth in yards-allowed and gave up 28 touchdown passes.

Nesby Glasgow is a nine-year fixture at strong safety, and Leonard Coleman (4 interceptions) will move to free safety from left corner, with John Holt getting first shot at replacing him. Eugene Daniel, whose interception count fell from 8 in 1985 to 2 last season, is the right corner.

The defensive line of two rookies—right end Jon Hand and nose tackle Scott Kellar—and seven-year veteran Donnell Thompson at left end was effective against the rush but needs to increase its pursuit of the quarterback. Hand led the down linemen with 5 sacks.

Besides Hogeboom, the Colts' greatest hope for a brighter future comes from their linebackers. Outside linebacker Duane Bickett (second-leading tackler, 5 sacks) is the best of a very good lot. Bickett, outside linebacker Johnnie Cooks, and inside linebacker Barry Krauss all are former number-one draft choices, while inside linebackers Cliff Odom and Dave Ahrens are reliable complements. Odom led the Colts in tackles last season.

The only concern is whether Krauss can recover from a knee injury that sidelined him for most of last season.

There are no punting worries. Rohn Stark is a consistent all-pro who led the NFL with a 45.2-yard average. Kicker Dean Biasucci made only 13 of 25 field goals, but connected on 52-yard kicks in each of the last two games.

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CENTRAL DIVISION



Nobody laughs at the AFC Central anymore, not after Cleveland (12-4) earned the home-field advantage for the conference playoffs and the division's four teams combined for a 20-12 overall record over the last half of the season—the NFL's best winning percentage.

CLEVELAND—The Browns had the best record in the AFC last season. Counting a playoff victory, they won 13 games, more than any team in franchise history, and they came within two minutes and a single, almost-miraculous 98-yard Denver touchdown drive of representing the AFC in Super Bowl XXI.

It was a great year, no two ways about it, but the Browns remain driven because of the sudden, improbable way their season ended. "We feel deprived," says AFC coach of the year Marty Schottenheimer, who has won Central Division championships in each of his two full seasons in charge.

Cleveland is well-equipped to get over the hump with an ideal mix of youth and veteran leadership. Quarterback Bernie Kosar provides some of each at the tender age of 23.

As a rookie in 1985, Kosar leaned heavily on 1,000-yard rushers Kevin Mack and Earnest Byner. But, when injuries broke up that bullish tandem last season, Kosar passed for 3,854 yards, fourth-best in the NFL, and led the league in interception percentage.

Six players caught 37 or more passes, led by wide receiver Brian Brennan with 55. Brennan didn't start and likely won't again when Cleveland lines up in its standard set. Second-year man Webster Slaughter (40 catches) and three-year veteran Reggie Langhorne (39) are the incumbent wide receivers.

Tight end Ozzie Newsome, hobbled all of 1986 by an ankle sprain suffered in the opener, hopes to bounce back fully. He caught just 39 passes, his fewest in nine years.

Assuming Mack and Byner, who spent only seven quarters on the field together in 1986, also return to form, the Browns probably will have a more balanced offense. Their 3.5 yards per rush was near the bottom of the league as Byner (torn ankle ligaments) missed the last nine games and Mack (shoulder) sat out four. Mack led the team in rushing with 665 yards, while veteran Curtis Dickey added 523.

The offensive line is unsung but effective. Right tackle Cody Risien, voted to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, is fully recovered from knee and shoulder problems. The same is true of left tackle Rickey Bolden, who was shelved



Cincinnati fullback Larry Kinnebrew.

for nine regular-season games with a broken arm. Reliable Mike Baab anchors the line at center and makes life easier for young guards Larry Williams and Dan Fike.

The defense started slowly, but was superb down the stretch, yielding a meager 47 points over the last four weeks.

Dogged man-to-man coverage by Pro Bowl corners Hanford Dixon (5 interceptions) and Frank Minnifield (3) helped take up the slack for the nine-game loss of strong safety Al Gross, the Browns' interception leader in 1984 and 1985. There also was inspired play from 12-year end Carl Hairston and inside linebacker Eddie Johnson.

Although Hairston had 9 sacks, the steadyest player up front remains Pro Bowl nose tackle Bob Golic. Reggie Camp (7 sacks) and Sam Clancy (6½ sacks) both saw heavy action at the other end.

The Browns traded outside linebacker Chip Banks, a four-time Pro Bowl pick to San Diego. First-round draft choice Mike Junkin or Anthony Griggs, who started inside last year, may take over opposite Clay Matthews. Eddie Johnson will be joined inside by either Griggs or former USFL standout Mike Johnson.

Cleveland has three good safeties in leading tackler Chris Rockins, Gross, and Ray Ellis, who replaced Gross.

The Browns' special teams were excellent. They blocked two punts for touchdowns, and the "Ice Cube," 5-foot 7-inch, 146-pound

Gerald McNeil, became the only NFL player to run back both a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns. Kicker Matt Bahr, who injured a knee in the twelfth game, after making 20 of 26 field goals, should be healthy again. The Browns released his replacement, Mark Moseley, and drafted Washington kicker Jeff Jaeger. Punter Jeff Gossett had a 41.2 average.

CINCINNATI—While the Browns came within 98 yards of a Super Bowl, the Bengals got to within a game of making the playoffs. They needed a loss by New England on the final Monday night of the season, but the Patriots prevailed and Cincinnati stayed home.

Still, if you enjoy fireworks, the season was a success for head coach Sam Wyche and his team. The Bengals return to work this year with a balanced, Boomer Esiason-led offense that topped the NFL in total yards—second in rushing, third in passing—and in yards per rush, while placing second to Miami in touchdowns and first downs.

In each of the 26-year-old Esiason's two seasons as a starter, the Bengals have scored more than 400 points. Last year he passed for 3,959 yards—third-best in the NFL—and 24 touchdowns, while his 8.4 yards gained per passing attempt led all quarterbacks.

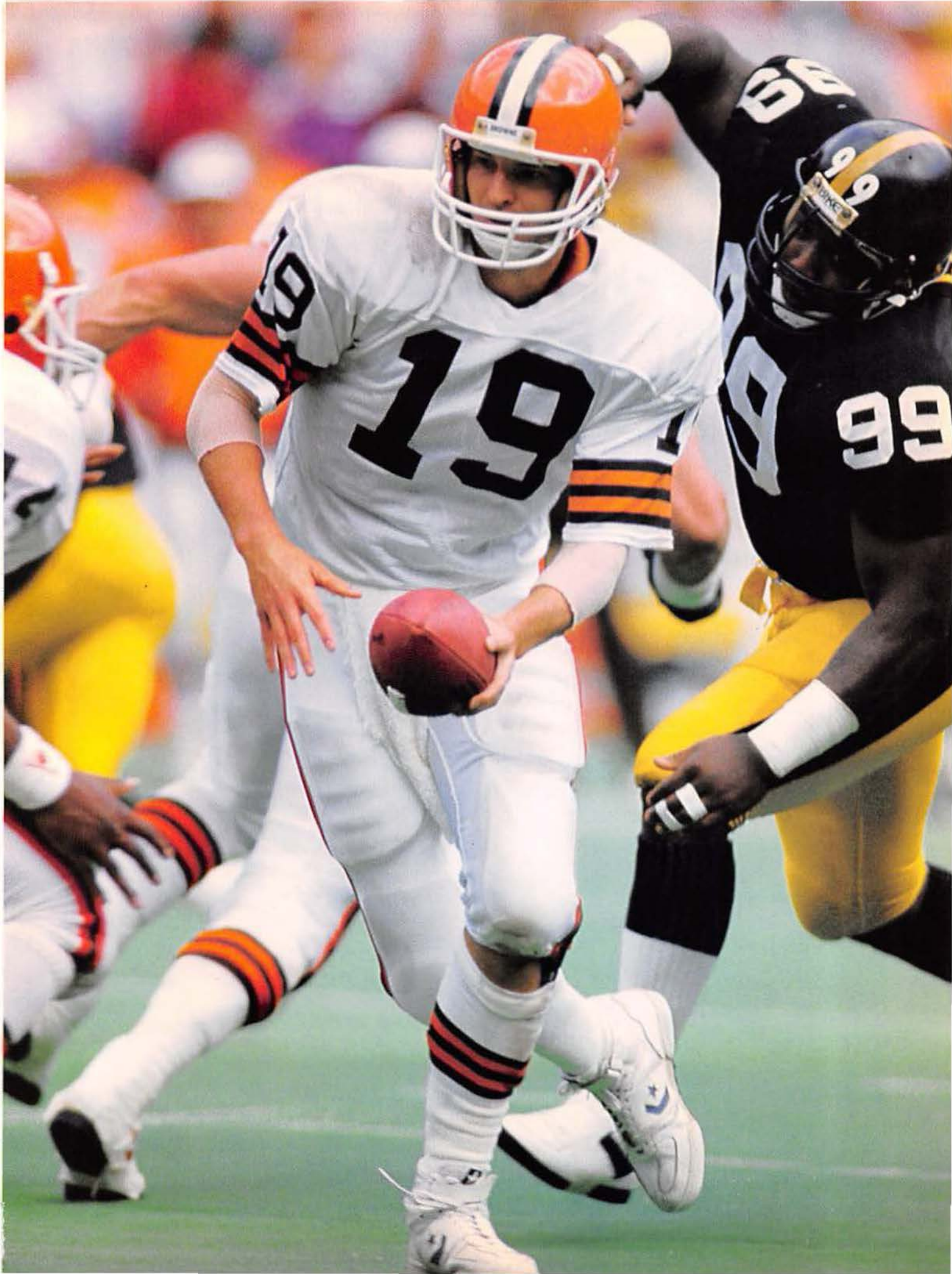
Left tackle Anthony Muñoz and right guard Max Montoya, both AFC-NFC Pro Bowl selections, are in charge of running interference up front, and they receive capable assistance from center Dave Rimington, left guard Bruce Kozerski, and right tackle Joe Walter. The Bengals' huge front line permitted just 28 sacks in 16 games.

Halfback James Brooks, whose 1,773 yards of total offense trailed only Eric Dickerson and Curt Warner, was one of Esiason's favorite accomplices, but receivers Cris Collinsworth and Eddie Brown didn't grow bored.

Brooks's 1,087 rushing yards (5.3 per carry) was the eighth-best total in the NFL. Collinsworth was a 1,000-yard receiver (1,024) for the fourth time in six seasons. Ten of Collinsworth's 62 receptions went for touchdowns. Brown caught 58 passes for 964 yards.

Brooks added 54 receptions, and tight end Rodney Holman contributed 40. Meanwhile, 255-pound fullback Larry Kinnebrew

Bernie Kosar, just 23 years old, led the Browns to a 12-4 record and the AFC Central Division championship. He passed for 3,854 yards and 17 touchdowns.



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powered for 519 yards and 8 touchdowns.

Unfortunately, just three teams allowed more touchdowns than the Bengals.

The pass defense ranked a respectable tenth with former all-pro cornerback Louis Breeden staging a personal renaissance. He had 7 interceptions after a sub-par 1985 season. Rookie right corner Lewis Billups, rookie strong safety David Fulcher (4 interceptions), and free safety Robert Jackson completed a reconstructed secondary.

Twelve-year pro Reggie Williams remains at right outside linebacker. But Williams had knee surgery in the offseason and his rehabilitation will be a key. Young linebackers Joe Kelly, Carl Zander, and Emanuel King can feed off Williams's sage advice, yet they also help compensate for his lost foot speed.

The pass rush remains a critical weakness, but defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau makes up some ground by frequently blitzing his linebackers. As a result, King led the team with 9 sacks, and, collectively, the starting linebackers contributed 18 of the Bengals' 42.

Nose tackle Tim Krumrie, who led the team in tackles, is a potential Pro Bowl player, but the ends are a source of concern. Eddie Edwards (6½ sacks) and Ross Browner (6½ sacks) are in their eleventh and tenth seasons.

Wyche wants to improve his punting after Jeff Hayes finished last in the league (both gross and net yards) and suffered two blocks. Placekicker Jim Breech, meanwhile, scored 101 points, but he hit only 7 of 18 field goals from beyond 40 yards.

PITTSBURGH—Chuck Noll enjoyed unprecedented prosperity in the 1970s, taking over a moribund franchise and turning it into a four-time Super Bowl champion.

But seven seasons now have passed since the Steelers' last Super Bowl victory, and their 6-10 record in 1986, after a 7-9 mark in '85, has fans and management on edge.

An appeal to tradition was made by hiring Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive tackle Joe Greene to coach the defensive line and improve the pass rush.

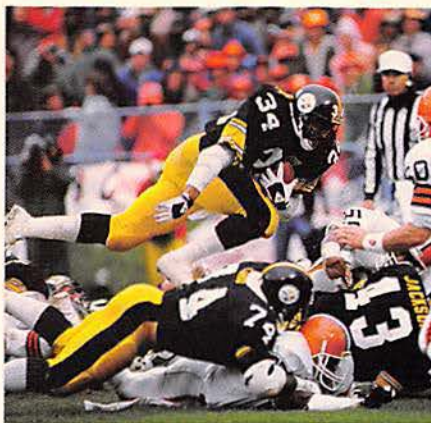
Still, Mark Malone's shrillest critics think the quarterback is the source of all their grief. A poor start didn't help him in 1986.

In the first four games, Malone completed just 40 percent of his passes and threw nine interceptions. Then a sprained thumb knocked him out for two weeks, and the respite recharged him. He passed for 13 touchdowns the rest of the way and the Steelers' offense—twenty-seventh at midseason—improved.

Free-agent gift Earnest Jackson (910 yards) and Walter Abercrombie (877) each averaged more than four yards per carry, and, late in the year, gave Malone the timely support he needed to regain his confidence.

It also helped to get veteran center Mike Webster and left guard Craig Wolfley back from injuries. Left tackle Ray Pinney, right guard Terry Long, and right tackle Tunch Ilkin, plus tight end Preston Gothard, complete a starting line that needs no major improvement—if it stays healthy.

Wide receiver shouldn't have been a prob-



Walter Abercrombie ran for 877 yards.

Pete J. Greb

lem, but it became one as John Stallworth and Louis Lipps were troubled by injuries. Stallworth, 35, missed five games with a bad knee, while Lipps had a series of maladies and sat out four. As a result, their combined contribution plunged by almost half, down from 134 catches, more than 2,000 yards, and 17 touchdown catches in 1985, to 72 for 1,056 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Defensively, the Steelers suffered from a puny pass rush that resulted in an extra workload for the patched-up secondary. Left corner Dwayne Woodruff, their best cover man, missed the entire year after preseason knee surgery.

Only 14-year veteran Donnie Shell at strong safety is secure in the secondary. Lupe Sanchez, Chris Sheffield, and Harvey Clayton will battle at right corner, and Eric Williams faces a fight with Rick Woods to keep his free safety job. Each of those players except Sheffield had 3 interceptions last year.

Greene's thrust as a coach obviously will be to improve Pittsburgh's sack total, but left end Keith Willis, nose tackle Gary Dunn, and right end Edmund Nelson may remain the starters. Willis led the team with a dozen sacks, but Dunn and Nelson combined for only 7½.

At least the linebacking, the lone throwback to the Steel Curtain days, is cast-iron solid. Mike Merriweather, a Pro Bowl choice, and Bryan Hinkle may be the club's best outside tandem ever—Jack Ham and Andy Russell notwithstanding—while David Little and Robin Cole are steady inside.

Noll likes placekicker Gary Anderson (95

AFC CENTRAL	Cleveland	Cincinnati	Pittsburgh	Houston
Season	12-4	10-6	6-10	5-11
Second Half	7-1	5-3	4-4	4-4
vs. AFC Central	5-1	3-3	3-3	1-5
vs. AFC	10-2	7-5	4-8	3-9
vs. NFC	2-2	3-1	2-2	2-2
at Home	6-2	6-2	4-4	4-4
on Road	6-2	4-4	2-6	1-7
on Artificial Turf	6-1	8-5	6-9	4-8
on Grass Fields	6-3	2-1	0-1	1-3
Points (NFL Rank)	24.4 (5)	25.6 (3)	19.2 (18)	17.1 (23)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	19.4 (11)	24.6 (23)	21.0 (17)	20.6 (16)
Yards (NFL Rank)	337.1 (9)	405.6 (1)	300.7 (20)	321.8 (16)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	329.3 (19)	329.6 (20)	328.3 (18)	314.6 (13)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	103.1 (22)	158.3 (2)	138.9 (7)	106.3 (19)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	123.8 (18)	132.6 (22)	117.0 (15)	127.2 (20)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	234.0 (8)	247.3 (3)	161.8 (24)	215.6 (13)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	205.5 (15)	197.0 (10)	211.3 (18)	187.4 (8)
Turnover +/− (NFL Rank)	+13 (47)	−8 (20)	−3 (16)	−11 (247)

points) but there is such a concerted effort to improve the terrible kick-coverage teams—last in the NFL at chasing down kickoff returns and twenty-sixth in covering punts—that Noll fired himself as the special-teams coach and put two assistants in charge.

HOUSTON—Oilers management chose Jerry Glanville to be the team's head coach in 1986 because he didn't talk about improvement. He talked about winning immediately. After Houston went 4-0 in the preseason, then walloped Green Bay 31-3 in the opener, the new coach was being hailed as a genius.

Not for long, though. Houston proceeded to lose eight in a row, and, despite a promising finish (4-3 in the last seven games), wound up in the division's basement for a record fifth consecutive season.

Houston was the youngest team in the NFL



Houston fullback Ray Wallace.

BEHIND THE DRAFT

Cleveland sacrificed a proven but unhappy AFC Pro Bowl linebacker for a highly rated rookie, trading Chip Banks to San Diego for the chance to take Duke's Mike Junkin with the fifth pick overall. The 6-3, 235-pound Junkin is a tough guy who had more than 100 tackles in each of his last three college seasons. Second-round pick Gregg Rakoczy, a 6-6, 288-pound center at Miami, will be tried first at tackle. Third-round choice Tim Manoa of Penn State is a strong inside runner and good blocker.

As usual, **Cincinnati** sought a defensive transfusion, and the Bengals hope they got it in end Jason Buck, who entered Brigham Young as a 190-pound walk-on and left as a 260-pound Outland Trophy winner. Tulane cornerback Eric Thomas and Indiana safety Leonard Bell, second- and third-round picks, respectively, add depth to the secondary. Cincinnati also took another defensive end, Arizona State's Skip McClendon, in the third round.

Pittsburgh defensive coordinator Tony Dungy called drafting cornerback Rod Woodson of Purdue "Christmas in April" because the 6-foot, 201-pound Woodson, the best of the lot at his position, was supposed to be gone before the Steelers got a shot at him. In desperate need of cornerback help, Pittsburgh took another highly rated one in the second round, Delton Hall of Clemson, another 6-foot, 200-pounder.

Houston entered the first round with two picks and two major needs, a fullback and a pass rusher. The Oilers traded up to third in the draft to get the fullback, versatile Alonzo Highsmith of Miami. Then, instead of a pass rusher, Houston took a standout receiver, 6-2 Haywood Jeffries of North Carolina State, who had been projected to go considerably higher than the twentieth spot. Louisiana Tech linebacker Walter Johnson was the Oilers' second-round choice.

1987 Draft Choices

CLEVELAND	Round	Player	Position	College
1.		Mike Junkin	LB	Duke
2.		Gregg Rakoczy	C	Miami
3.		Tim Manoa	RB	Penn State
3.		Jeff Jaeger	K	Washington
6.		Stephen Braggs	DB	Texas
8.		Steve Bullitt	LB	Texas A&M
10.		Frank Winters	C	Western Illinois
11.		Larry Brewton	DB	Temple

CINCINNATI	Round	Player	Position	College
1.		Jason Buck	DE	Brigham Young
2.		Eric Thomas	DB	Tulane
3.		Leonard Bell	DB	Indiana
3.		Skip McClendon	DE	Arizona State
4.		Jim Riggs	TE	Clemson
5.		Marc Logan	RB	Kentucky
5.		Greg Horne	P	Arkansas
6.		Sonny Gordon	DB	Ohio State
7.		Chris Thatcher	G	Lafayette
8.		Solomon Wilcotts	DB	Colorado
9.		Craig Raddatz	LB	Wisconsin
10.		David McCluskey	RB	Georgia
11.		Jim Warne	T	Arizona State
12.		John Holifield	RB	West Virginia

PITTSBURGH	Round	Player	Position	College
1.		Rod Woodson	DB	Purdue
2.		Delton Hall	DB	Clemson
3.		Charles Lockett	WR	Long Beach State
4.		Thomas Everett	DB	Baylor
5.		Hardy Nickerson	LB	California
6.		Tim Johnson	NT	Penn State
6.		Greg Lloyd	LB	Fort Valley State
7.		Chris Kelley	TE	Akron
8.		Charles Buchanan	DE	Tennessee State
9.		Joey Clinkscales	WR	Tennessee
10.		Merril Hoge	RB	Idaho State
11.		Paul Oswald	C	Kansas
12.		Theo Young	TE	Arkansas

HOUSTON	Round	Player	Position	College
1.		Alonzo Highsmith	RB	Miami
1.		Haywood Jeffries	WR	North Carolina St.
2.		Walter Johnson	LB	Louisiana Tech
3.		Cody Carlson	QB	Baylor
4.		Mark Dusbabek	LB	Minnesota
5.		Spencer Tillman	RB	Oklahoma
6.		Al Smith	RB	Utah State
6.		Toby Caston	LB	LSU
7.		Robert Banks	DT	Notre Dame
8.		Michel James	WR	Washington State
9.		Wes Neighbors	C	Alabama
10.		Curtis Duncan	WR	Northwestern
11.		John Davis	G	Georgia Tech
12.		Ira Valentine	RB	Texas A&M

last season, and the Oilers hope the major rebuilding is over. Still, question marks persist at virtually every position except wide receiver, where Drew Hill and rookie Ernest Givins each had 1,000-yard seasons and combined for 126 receptions.

With Hill and Givins for targets, it should come as no surprise that Warren Moon threw for a club-record 3,489 yards. The bad news is he led the NFL in interceptions with 26, his quarterback rating was the lowest among the league's established starters, and the Oilers were twenty-third in points scored.

Injuries continued to plague an offensive line that has been sculpted from prime draft-day selections. Hence, Moon's protection was erratic and the power-running game that was to be Glanville's pride and joy had to be scrapped by midseason.

Workhorse tailback Mike Rozier (662 yards) took a beating and finally went on injured reserve after knee surgery with three games to play. Butch Woolfolk (shoulder) already was there and surprise rookie Ray Wallace (knee) was on the injured list twice.

Given the dire circumstances, which included losing AFC Pro Bowl left guard Mike Munchak for the last 10 weeks after knee surgery, the Oilers probably were lucky to have had a running attack at all.

Center Jim Romano also missed seven games, but Jay Pennison was a surprisingly effective replacement and may challenge for a starting job in 1987. Don Maggs, Munchak's replacement, will move over to the right side and push veteran Kent Hill, who was bothered by tendinitis in both knees after coming from the Rams in the Jim Everett trade.

In theory, the Oilers are sound at tackle with former number-one picks Dean Steinkuhler and Bruce Matthews. But, while Steinkuhler is almost recovered from torn knee ligaments that cost him a season and a half, Matthews underwent offseason back surgery.

Tight end Jamie Williams, whose receptions fell from a total of 80 in 1984-85 to 22 last season, has been inconsistent.

It was feast or famine on defense, with the Oilers holding opposing quarterbacks to a league-low 46.5 percent completion rate but also giving up 25 touchdown passes.

Glanville's team lived by the blitz—and often died by it, too—as corners Steve Brown and Patrick Allen and safeties Keith Bostic and Bo Eason will attest.

Eason is expected to regain his free safety job from Jeff Donaldson after missing almost half of last season with a broken foot.

Left end Ray Childress (5 sacks), nose tackle Mike Golic, and right end Richard Byrd are expected to keep their starting jobs, but end William Fuller, also acquired from the Rams, will be a key figure as a designated pass rusher, something the defense desperately needs.

Robert Lyles, John Grimsley (the team's leading tackler), Robert Abraham, and Johnny Meads are the linebackers.

Placekicker Tony Zendejas set a franchise record in 1986 with 22 field goals (out of 27 tries). And punter Lee Johnson averaged 41.2, tying for fifth in the AFC.

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WESTERN DIVISION



Denver went to Super Bowl XXI, but some observers thought Seattle was the AFC's best team by year's end—and the Seahawks didn't even make the playoffs. Nor did the Raiders. But Kansas City did.

This year? Flip a coin.

DENVER—Denver couldn't hang on against the mighty Giants in the Super Bowl, but winning the AFC was an ample reward for a team that had missed the playoffs altogether in 1985, despite the same 11-5 record.

The best part was *how* they won the AFC title—with a masterful 98-yard drive in the final minute at Cleveland, a drive that should have erased all doubts about what kind of quarterback the Broncos have in John Elway.

Denver still needs a much-improved running attack, a little more productivity at the receiver positions, and a slightly tighter pass defense. But head coach Dan Reeves recognizes his team's weaknesses and is responding.

In 1986, Elway threw for 3,485 yards and 19 touchdowns with 13 interceptions as Denver made the NFL's top 10 passing teams despite not having a wide receiver with more than Steve Watson's 45 receptions. Fleet Mark Jackson, second with 38 and 19.4 yards per catch, could find himself in the lineup with Vance Johnson (31 catches) if Reeves decides to place more emphasis on speed.

Sammy Winder's 789 yards and 9 touchdowns made up the brunt of the Broncos' twentieth-ranked rushing attack, as versatile Gerald Willhite (365 yards) proved more valuable catching footballs than carrying them. His 64 receptions led the team, and he also returned a punt 70 yards for a touchdown.

Clarence Kay's return at tight end should help the Broncos' running attack. Second-year player Orson Mobley (22 catches) is the better receiver, Kay the better blocker.

There is hope that tackle Jim Juriga, a rookie sensation until he tore up a knee, can regain the form that won him a starting job in training camp. If so, he'll probably unseat veteran Dave Studdard on the left side.

Paul Howard, 36, will be challenged by Mark Cooper at right guard. Left guard Keith Bishop, center Billy Bryan, and right tackle Ken Lanier are secure.

Of course, with his scrambling ability, Elway doesn't need as much protection as most quarterbacks. He was sacked 32 times; Denver had the fifth-lowest total (38) in the AFC.

Denver's defenders, in turn, inflicted a



Chiefs Pro Bowl safety Deron Cherry.

healthier dose of suffering on opposing quarterbacks with 49 sacks.

Rulon Jones, who is taking his AFC Pro Bowl talents to right end in a flip-flop with Andre Townsend, got his man 13½ times. Designated rusher Simon Fletcher came off the bench for 5½ more, and Pro Bowl linebacker Karl Mecklenburg had 9½ sacks. Greg Kragen is the nose tackle.

With Jones, plus inside backers Mecklenburg and Ricky Hunley (the team's leading tackler in 1986) and the Methuselah cornerback, Louis Wright (3 interceptions), the Broncos have a solid defensive core.

But Denver faded badly at the end of last season, allowing 108 points in the last three regular-season games. Long-time defensive coordinator Joe Collier is looking for ways to prevent a similar stumble.

Left outside linebacker Jim Ryan may be tried on the right side, where 14-year veteran Tom Jackson has retired. Other outside linebacker candidates include Ken Woodard, Darren Comeaux, and Bruce Klostermann. Meanwhile, Tony Lilly (3 interceptions) is expected to push 12-year veteran Steve Foley at free safety.

Right cornerback Mike Harden, who ran 2 of his 6 interceptions back for touchdowns, and strong safety Dennis Smith are set.

Also solid is kicker Rich Karlis, his Super

Bowl XXI collapse notwithstanding. He was 20 for 28 on field-goal tries, and, until the spell broke with his first miss in Pasadena, he had hit 10 in a row. Punter Mike Horan won the job late in the season and averaged 41.1 yards the last four weeks of the regular season and 43.9 in the playoffs.

KANSAS CITY—The Chiefs resorted to unusual measures in 1986 to end the AFC's longest playoff drought.

They put the special teams in charge.

Then, once the mission was accomplished, owner Lamar Hunt rewarded special-teams coach Frank Gansz by putting him in charge of the entire team. Gansz replaced John Mackovic after Kansas City lost to the Jets in the wild-card playoff, the Chiefs' first postseason game since 1971.

The Chiefs are coming off a 10-6 season that was built upon excellent defense and an extraordinary talent for blocking kicks, then turning them into touchdowns.

Kansas City either blocked or deflected punts, or tackled opposing punters eight times—cornerback Albert Lewis accounting for five of those plays himself. Two blocks were recovered in the end zone for touchdowns by Deron Cherry. Lewis blocked another punt against the Jets in the playoffs and recovered that for a touchdown, too.

The Chiefs also swatted down three field goals, Lloyd Burruss running the last one back 78 yards for the winning score in the Pittsburgh game. Boyce Green added a 97-yard kickoff return and Kevin Ross scored on a 21-yard return of a fumbled kickoff.

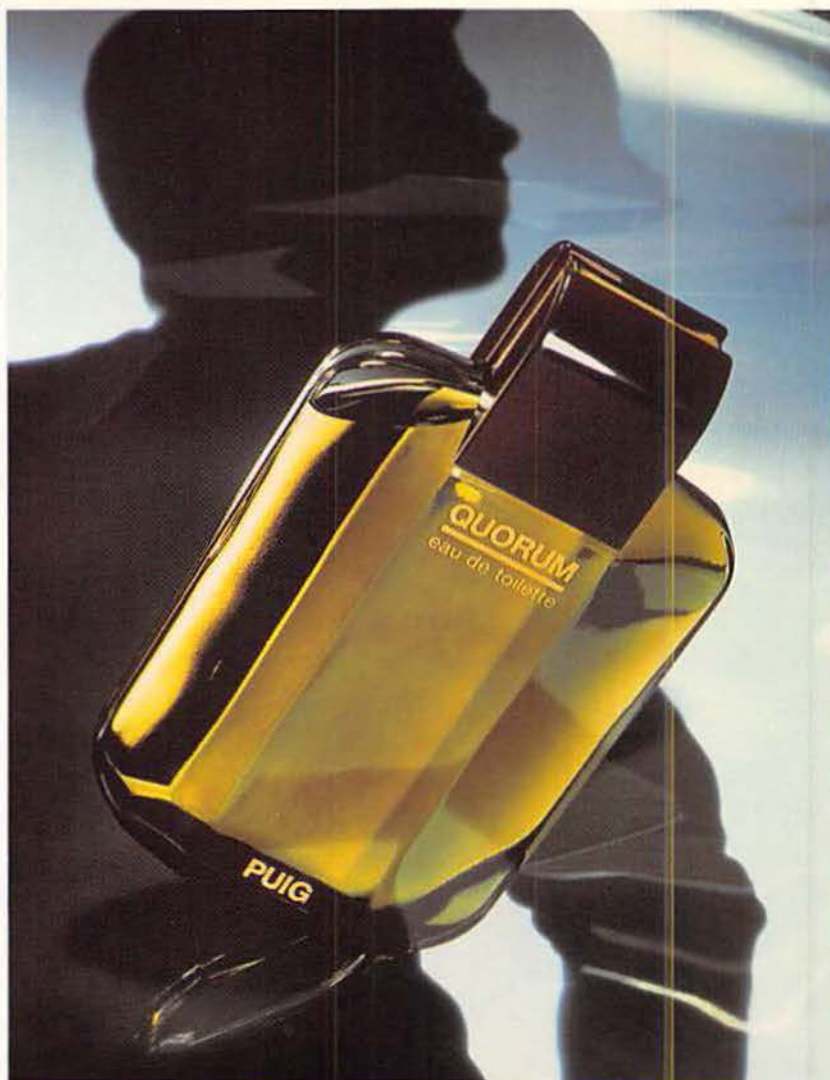
So, who needs an offense? Well, Kansas City does.

Even a true believer such as Gansz can't expect anything like this to ever happen again. As a result, he wants to beef up the NFL's least-productive offense, one that placed next-to-last in running and twenty-first in passing.

So he will re-open the quarterback battle between Todd Blackledge and Bill Kenney. Blackledge, number one going in a year ago, completed only 45 percent of his passes for 1,200 yards, but his touchdowns outnumbered his interceptions 10 to 6. Kenney's ratio was 13 to 11 and he threw for 1,992 yards.

Rifle-armed John Elway passed for 3,485 yards and 19 touchdowns as he led Denver to the Super Bowl. He also averaged nearly 5 yards a carry as a runner.





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Minnesota Vikings	Donaldsons		

If either quarterback can assert himself, the Chiefs have receivers with speed in Stephane Paige (52 catches, 15.9 average, 11 touchdowns) and Carlos Carson (21, 23.7, 4, despite missing six games) to inflict serious damage. Veteran Henry Marshall (46 catches) is added insurance. Tight end Walt Arnold added 20 catches.

The offensive line could become one of the NFL's best, with Irv Eatman at left tackle, Brad Budde at left guard, Rick Donnalley at center, Mark Adickes at right guard, and Dave Lutz at right tackle. However, they gave up 50 sacks in 1986, not an acceptable figure.

A better running game also would be a boost. Mike Pruitt was the leading rusher with only 448 yards. Boyce Green picked up 314 yards after being traded from Cleveland. More is expected of speedster Herman Heard (295) and ex-Oiler Larry Moriarty (115). Jeff Smith (238) is a receiving threat, too, having caught 33 passes.

Less attention must be paid to the defense, particularly the outstanding secondary.

Cherry and Burruss, AFC Pro Bowl selections who intercepted 14 passes between them, may be the NFL's best pair of safeties. Left cornerback Lewis (4 interceptions) was the team's most valuable player. Kevin Ross (4 interceptions) is solid at right corner.

Second-round draft choice Dino Hackett was an instant hit at inside linebacker, leading the Chiefs in tackles. Free-agent rookie Tim Cofield (5 sacks) at outside linebacker also starred, but things are less settled elsewhere with Gary Spani and Scott Radecic vying for the other inside spot and outside backer Ken McAlister's future uncertain after he missed the last 13 games with another major knee injury. Louis Cooper (4½ sacks) replaced him.

Pro Bowl nose tackle Bill Maas (7 sacks) is the pit boss with four-time AFC Pro Bowl selection Art Still (10½ sacks) a prized accomplice at end. Pete Koch, a former Bengals first-round pick, is reliable at the other end.

Speaking of reliable, placekicker Nick Lowery contributed a fourth consecutive 100-point season—yet another kudo for the Chiefs' special special teams. He made 19 of 26 field goals. Punter Lewis Colbert averaged 40.7 yards a kick, seventh-best in the AFC.

SEATTLE—The Seahawks played three seasons last year. They were 3-0 in the first and 5-0 in the last. But the 2-6 in the middle was a killer, keeping them out of the playoffs.

Still, head coach Chuck Knox has to feel good about his team's capabilities going into 1987. Seattle defeated both Super Bowl teams, blowing out AFC champion Denver 41-16 on the last weekend. In those final five victories, the Seahawks outscored their opposition by an average 33-15 margin.

The key figure in the turnaround—and also the midseason slump—was quarterback Dave Krieg. Knox benched him during a three-week stretch when Seattle managed just 21 points, but his return to form was spectacular. In the last five games, he completed 66 percent of his passes for 1,288 yards and 11 touchdowns with only one interception. His



Seattle's Curt Warner ran for 1,481 yards.

rating for those five games was a sky-high 132.2. His season mark was 91.0 with 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Krieg's renewed self-confidence benefited Steve Largent, who took further strides toward being recognized as the greatest receiver of all-time. His 70 catches for 1,070 yards gave him NFL records for most 1,000-yard seasons (eight) and most 50-catch seasons (nine). He also has receptions in 139 consecutive games, another NFL record.

Small wonder Seattle's other wide receiver spot, shared by Daryl Turner and Ray Butler, receives scant attention. Yet 7 of Turner's 18 catches were for touchdowns, and Butler (19 catches) scored 4 times. Reserve wide receiver Byron Franklin had 33 more catches, but must come back from knee surgery.

Seattle had the NFL's eighth-best offense overall and fifth-best running game. With 1,481 yards, Curt Warner was the AFC rushing leader, 394 ahead of the runner-up. He also scored 13 touchdowns and caught 41 passes, proof that he is fully recovered from his serious knee injury of 1984. Rookie John L. Williams, a standout blocker, added 538 rushing yards and 33 receptions.

AFC WEST	Denver	Kansas City	Seattle	Los Angeles Raiders	San Diego
Season	11-5	10-6	10-6	8-8	4-12
Second Half	4-4	5-3	5-3	3-5	3-5
vs. AFC West	5-3	5-3	5-3	4-4	1-7
vs. AFC	8-4	9-5	7-5	7-5	4-8
vs. NFC	3-1	1-1	3-1	1-3	0-4
at Home	7-1	6-2	7-1	3-5	2-6
on Road	4-4	4-4	3-5	5-3	2-6
on Artificial Turf	2-4	8-4	9-3	3-1	1-4
on Grass Fields	9-1	2-2	1-3	5-7	3-8
Points (NFL Rank)	23.6 (6)	22.4 (12)	22.9 (10)	20.2 (16)	20.9 (15)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	20.4 (15)	20.4 (13T)	18.3 (8)	21.6 (19)	24.8 (24)
Yards (NFL Rank)	326.0 (15)	263.6 (28)	338.1 (8)	331.2 (14)	334.8 (12)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	309.2 (9)	308.4 (8)	333.8 (22)	300.3 (3)	335.4 (23)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	104.9 (20)	91.8 (27)	143.8 (5)	111.9 (13)	98.5 (24)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	103.2 (5)	108.7 (11)	109.9 (12)	108.0 (10)	104.9 (7)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	221.1 (10)	171.9 (21)	194.3 (18)	219.3 (11)	236.3 (7)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	206.0 (16)	199.7 (12)	223.9 (23)	192.3 (9)	230.5 (25)
Turnover +/- (NFL Rank)	+6 (9T)	+14 (3)	+9 (7T)	-11 (24T)	-12 (26)

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Scorpio's spacious and civilized interior proves that form can follow function without ever becoming stark or uninviting. Scorpio was designed from the inside-out with a near-obsessive attention to detail. One example: standard power reclining rear seats.

This accommodating interior is surrounded by an advanced shape that shows respect for both aerodynamics (0.34 Cd) and aesthetics.

GETTING THERE IS THE FUN.

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Scorpio won the coveted Car of the Year award when it was introduced in Europe, a title earned only after the scrutiny of 56 journalists from 16 countries. Since then, the awards list has grown to include the German Safety Award and 16 other prestigious honors.

In the U.S., Scorpio is backed by an ownership program as rare as the automobile itself. Its contents include a Guaranteed Resale Value Program, a free loaner car during service visits* and a 6-year/60,000-mile limited powertrain warranty**.

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Todd Christensen: NFL's leading receiver.

A stable line of left tackle Ron Mattes, left guard Edwin Bailey, center Blair Bush, right guard Bryan Millard, and right tackle Mike Wilson is a plus for both Krieg and Warner. Bush missed the stretch run with a knee injury, but Will Grant was solid as his backup. Tight ends Mike Tice, a strong blocker, and Gordon Hudson combined for 28 catches.

Statistically, the defense had an off-year, falling from eleventh in 1985 to twenty-second. But inside linebacker Fredd Young and left end Jacob Green both went to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Young for the third time in three NFL seasons.

The return of former all-pro Kenny Easley, who missed the last five games with an ankle injury, will provide a psychological boost, but his replacement at strong safety, Paul Moyer, is a quality player. Seattle was 6-0 in games Moyer (3 interceptions) started.

Green, one of the league's most consistently superb pass rushers, had 12 of the Seahawks' 47 sacks. Nose tackle Joe Nash contributed 5 and right end Jeff Bryant 4.

Young led the team in tackles, while free safety Eugene Robinson was second and also had 3 interceptions and 3 fumble recoveries. Dave Brown (5 interceptions) and Terry Taylor are the corners.

Bruce Scholtz forced 5 fumbles from his left outside linebacker spot, and Greg Gaines blitzed his way to 5 sacks from the right side. Keith Butler joins Young in the middle.

Special teams are a Seahawks forte, too. Return specialist Bobby Joe Edmonds went to the Pro Bowl after leading the NFL with a 12.3-yard punt-return average as a rookie. And Norm Johnson set a club record with 22 field goals, four of them from beyond the 50. Punter Vince Gamache, however, averaged just 38.6 yards a kick.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS—What would the Raiders be without a quarterback controversy?

A solid Super Bowl contender, that's what.

Thus, after three post-world-championship seasons of jockeying between Jim Plunkett

On paper, defending AFC champion Denver needed linemen—offensive and defensive—and a big fullback. The Broncos didn't need another wide receiver. But, in their opinion, wide receiver Ricky Nattiel was the best prospect still available in the twenty-seventh spot, so they took him. Nattiel (5-9, 179) averaged almost 18 yards per catch at Florida and also was an effective kick-returner. Speed (4.4 in the 40) and fearlessness are his greatest attributes. Denver didn't have a second-round pick, then selected linebacker Michael Brooks of LSU in the third round. Running back Warren Marshall of James Madison, picked on the sixth round, rushed for 4,168 yards in his career and had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons.

After ranking twenty-seventh in rushing, Kansas City sought help at running back. So the Chiefs used their first two choices for Temple's Paul Palmer and Christian Okoye of Azusa Pacific. Palmer is only 5-9, but he led the nation in rushing last season and impressed Kansas City's scouts with his confidence and versatility. The muscular 6-1, 253-pound Okoye, in turn, may have been the most intriguing player in the entire draft. A native of Nigeria, he has played only three years of football, but he scored a record four touchdowns in the Senior Bowl and has run 40 yards in 4.45 seconds. Texas A&M linebacker Todd Howard was the Chiefs' third-round pick.

Because Seattle's offense came around late in 1986, head coach Chuck Knox put his efforts to find a quarterback on the back burner and drafted defensively. After all, the Seahawks finished twenty-second in yards allowed. Pittsburgh's Tony Woods, a fluid, agile 242-pound linebacker in the Hugh Green/Rickey Jackson mold, was the first-round choice, and Stanford linebacker Dave Wyman was selected in the second. The Seahawks didn't have a third-round pick, but defensive back Mark Moore of Oklahoma State was picked in the fourth.

Defense may have dominated this draft league-wide, but it certainly didn't at the Los Angeles Raiders' compound, where the emphasis clearly was on rebuilding an aging offensive line that gave up 64 sacks last season. Los Angeles used its first- and second-round choices for huge Missouri tackle John Clay (6-4, 319) and Tennessee tackle Bruce Wilkerson (6-5, 271). The Raiders then sent two fourth-round picks to New England in order to choose 6-1, 240-pound Penn State fullback Steve Smith in the third round. Quarterback Steve Beuerlein, who was picked on the fourth round, holds Notre Dame's records for completed passes, attempts, and yardage.

Satisfied that getting four-time Pro Bowl pick Chip Banks from Cleveland would adequately bolster its always troubled defense,

San Diego threw everyone a curve and drafted Texas A&M tight end Rod Bernstine first. It was an unexpected choice because the Chargers have four veteran tight ends, but head coach Al Saunders said the 6-3, 238-pound Bernstine, who caught 65 passes as a senior, easily was the best available athlete on the board at the time. Further defensive assistance came in both the second round—USC cornerback Louis Brock, the son of the baseball Hall of Famer—and the third round, LSU defensive end Karl Wilson.

1987 Draft Choices

DENVER		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Ricky Nattiel	WR Florida
3.	Michael Brooks	LB LSU
4.	Marc Munford	LB Nebraska
6.	Warren Marshall	RB James Madison
7.	Wilbur Strozier	TE Georgia
8.	Dan Morgan	G Penn State
9.	Bruce Plummer	DB Mississippi State
10.	Rafe Wilkinson	LB Richmond
11.	Steve Roberts	DE Washington
11.	Tommy Neal	RB Maryland
12.	Tyrone Braxton	DB North Dakota State

KANSAS CITY		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Paul Palmer	RB Temple
2.	Christian Okoye	RB Azusa Pacific
3.	Todd Howard	LB Texas A&M
5.	Kitrick Taylor	WR Washington State
7.	Doug Hudson	QB Nicholls State
8.	Michael Clemons	RB William & Mary
9.	Randy Watts	DE Catawba
10.	James Evans	RB Southern
11.	Craig Richardson	WR Eastern Washington
12.	Bruce Holmes	LB Minnesota

SEATTLE		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Tony Woods	LB Pittsburgh
2.	Dave Wyman	LB Stanford
4.	Mark Moore	DB Oklahoma State
5.	Tommie Agee	RB Auburn
5.	Ruben Rodriguez	P Arizona
7.	Roland Barby	NT LSU
7.	Derek Tennell	TE UCLA
8.	Sammy Garza	QB Texas-El Paso
9.	M.L. Johnson	LB Hawaii
10.	Louis Clark	WR Mississippi State
11.	Darryl Oliver	RB Miami
12.	Wes Dove	DE Syracuse
12.	Tony Burse	RB Middle Tennessee

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	John Clay	T Missouri
2.	Bruce Wilkerson	T Tennessee
3.	Steve Smith	RB Penn State
4.	Steve Beuerlein	QB Notre Dame
7.	Bo Jackson	RB Auburn
9.	Scott Eccles	TE Eastern New Mexico
10.	Bob Harrison	DB Cal St.-Sacramento
10.	John Gesek	G Cal St.-Sacramento
10.	Jim Ellis	LB Boise State
11.	Chris McLemore	RB Arizona
11.	Marion Perry	TE Mississippi

SAN DIEGO		
Round	Player	Position College
1.	Rod Bernstine	TE Texas A&M
2.	Louis Brock	DB USC
3.	Karl Wilson	DE LSU
4.	Mark Vlasic	QB Iowa
5.	Nelson Jones	DB North Carolina St.
7.	Jamie Holland	WR Ohio State
8.	Joe MacEsker	T Texas-El Paso
8.	Ron Brown	LB USC
9.	Thomas Wilcher	RB Michigan
10.	Anthony Anderson	DB Grambling
11.	Joe Goebel	C UCLA
12.	Marcus Greenwood	RB UCLA

and Marc Wilson, including last year's 8-8 disaster, head coach Tom Flores has made a decision. It's Rusty Hilger's turn to take over. Despite a season-ending loss to Indianapolis, the Raiders like what they've seen of Hilger, who passed for 216 yards without an interception in the second half against the Colts.

Obviously, experience won't be the third-year pro's strong suit. Before the Indianapolis game, he had attempted just 21 NFL passes.

Wilson fell from favor more so than Plunkett, whose 17 years in the NFL will be of indirect benefit to Hilger. Despite injuries, Plunkett, who will turn 40 in December, passed for 1,986 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, and will stand ready to step in if necessary.

The Raiders definitely want more productivity from their wide receivers, and may have got it in seven-time Pro Bowl player James Lofton, who they acquired in a trade with Green Bay for draft choices. Lofton brings impressive credentials with him—including 530 career receptions and five seasons of 1,000 or more yards. Lofton caught 64 passes for 840 yards and 4 touchdowns last season. The Raiders also picked up Canadian Football League star receiver Mervyn Fernandez.

While tight end Todd Christensen led the NFL with 95 catches (for 1,153 yards and 8 touchdowns), wide receivers Dokie Williams, Jessie Hester, and Rod Barksdale had only 84 catches among them. Even so, they are the kind of big-play deep threats the Raiders always have cherished. Hester averaged 27.5 yards per catch, Barksdale 24.1, and Williams, who scored 8 touchdowns, 19.6.

The running game suffered a drastic drop-off because of Marcus Allen's nagging ankle injury. The NFL's most valuable player and rushing leader in 1985 with 1,759 yards, gained exactly 1,000 fewer yards last season and scored just 5 rushing touchdowns.

The Raiders appear to have lost Annapolis graduate Napoleon McCallum for 1987. The Navy Department allowed him to play last season and he gained 536 yards in a hectic rookie season. He played every game. But the approval to play has been rescinded by new Secretary of the Navy James Webb. Fullback Frank Hawkins (245 yards) is a solid blocker, but no threat to break long runs.

Should everything fall into place, the experienced offensive line of left tackle Bruce Davis, left guard Charley Hannah, center Don Mosebar, right guard Mickey Marvin, and right tackle Henry Lawrence will deserve a share of the credit. Second-year pro Chris Rhiem, however, may give Hannah a battle.

Until the late tailspin, the Los Angeles defense couldn't have been much better. And the Raiders still wound up first in the AFC—third overall in the NFL.

Left end Howie Long, nose tackle Bill Pickel, and right end Sean Jones lead a fierce pass rush that produced an NFL-leading 63 sacks. Jones's 15½ were tops in the AFC, while Pickel and designated rusher Greg Townsend had 11½ apiece. Long (7½) was conspicuous by his absence among the leaders, but he spent some of the season injured, and the rest of it double- and triple-teamed.



Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts.

Linebacking remains another major plus with the formidable combination of Matt Milen and Reggie McKenzie inside and Rod Martin and Jerry Robinson outside. The secondary of right corner Mike Haynes, strong safety Stacey Toran, and free safety Vann McElroy (7 interceptions and a team-leading 99 tackles) will profit from left corner Lester Hayes's return from a foot injury that ended his consecutive-game streak at 149.

Kicker Chris Bahr scored 99 points, hitting 21 of 28 field goals, but 37-year-old punter Ray Guy slipped to a 40.2 average, ninth in the AFC.

SAN DIEGO—The Chargers like to think they are on the road to recovery, but even the slightest relapse could prove terminal in a division full of championship contenders.

Coming off a 4-12 year, San Diego still has a lot of catching up to do.

As always, the Chargers' quest for defensive improvement continues, this time under new head coach Al Saunders, who took over halfway through last season. They ranked twenty-third in yards allowed, twenty-fifth in points allowed, and twenty-fifth against the pass, intercepting just 15 passes and allowing 27 touchdowns by the pass. The run defense was a respectable seventh, however, with Billy Ray Smith coming into his own as one of the NFL's best outside linebackers.

And on draft day, the Chargers gave Smith a great companion at outside linebacker, when they traded for AFC Pro Bowl starter Chip Banks of Cleveland. The Browns' second-leading tackler last season, Banks also forced four fumbles and had five sacks.

As long as quarterback Dan Fouts is healthy, the Chargers' offense should be, too. He had more than his share of injuries in 1986, missing four of five games over one stretch because of a sore shoulder and a concussion, but he still threw for 3,031 yards. His 16 touchdowns—versus 22 interceptions—were a nine-year low.

Fouts returns for his fifteenth season as the

second all-time leading passer in total yards (40,523), but his pursuit of Fran Tarkenton must continue without a familiar target, now that wide receiver Charlie Joiner has retired after 18 seasons. Wide receiver Wes Chandler (56 catches) and tight end Kellen Winslow, who had 45 of his 64 receptions in the last nine games, are still-formidable holdovers from the Air Coryell era. Backup wide receiver Trumaine Johnson and backup tight end Pete Holohan added 30 and 29 catches.

AFC Pro Bowl running back Gary Anderson was San Diego's leading receiver with 80 catches for 8 touchdowns, and he also was the top rusher with 442 yards. The latter statistic disturbs Saunders, who hopes to restore balance to his offense. The Chargers were seventh in passing, but twenty-fourth in rushing.

Fullback Tim Spencer (350 yards) is a determined blocker who also scored 6 touchdowns. The return of running backs Lionel James (ankle) and Buford McGee (both knees) from injured reserve will help. McGee managed 7 touchdowns in just 63 carries before being injured in midseason.

Up front, the line allowed just 32 sacks and is a nice blend of youth and experience with center Don Macek, left guard Sam Clapham, right guard Dennis McKnight, left tackle Jim Lachey, and right tackle Gary Kowalski.

It's likely the defense might have held its own better at the finish if the Chargers hadn't lost rookie end Leslie O'Neal, who missed most of the last three games with a severe knee injury that's likely to cost him much of the 1987 season, too.

O'Neal, the AFC's defensive rookie of the year despite his season being cut short, combined with third-year pro Lee Williams to form the league's top pair of sacking ends. Williams had 15, O'Neal 12½. The Chargers' team total of 62 tied for second in the NFL.

Earl Wilson (5½ sacks) replaced O'Neal and will continue to do so as long as necessary. Terry Unrein, Chuck Ehin, and Blaise Winter will compete at nose tackle.

Smith's 11 sacks placed him third among NFL linebackers, and he also led the Chargers in tackles. Eleven-year veteran Woodrow Lowe gives San Diego depth behind Smith and Banks, while Thomas Benson and Gary Plummer start inside.

Saunders thinks the key to San Diego's long-term progress hinges upon more stability in the secondary. Last year only strong safety Jeff Dale (4 interceptions) started every game, while the starting left corner at the end of the season, Ken Taylor, wasn't even on the team when the year began. Five defensive backs were picked up after training camp.

Right corner Gill Byrd led San Diego with 5 interceptions, after playing the first half of the year at free safety. Vencie Glenn, acquired in a trade from New England, took over at free safety and held on to the job for the last half of the season despite a broken jaw.

A further concern is placekicker Rolf Benirschke, who missed six field-goal tries inside the 40 last year. Punter Ralf Mojsiejenko, however, was fourth in the AFC with a 42-yard average.



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1987 NFL SCHEDULE

REGULAR SEASON

FIRST WEEK

Sunday, September 13 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

1. Atlanta at Tampa Bay	1:00
2. Cincinnati at Indianapolis	12:00
3. Cleveland at New Orleans	12:00
4. Dallas at St. Louis	12:00
5. Detroit at Minnesota	12:00
6. Los Angeles Raiders at Green Bay	3:00
7. Los Angeles Rams at Houston	12:00
8. Miami at New England	1:00
9. New York Jets at Buffalo	1:00
10. Philadelphia at Washington	1:00
11. San Diego at Kansas City	12:00
12. San Francisco at Pittsburgh	1:00
13. Seattle at Denver	2:00

Monday, September 14

14. New York Giants at Chicago	(ABC) 8:00
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SECOND WEEK

Sunday, September 20 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

15. Dallas at New York Giants	4:00
16. Denver vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
17. Detroit at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
18. Houston at Buffalo	1:00
19. Kansas City at Seattle	1:00
20. Miami at Indianapolis	12:00
21. Minnesota at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
22. New Orleans at Philadelphia	1:00
23. Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00
24. St. Louis at San Diego	1:00
25. San Francisco at Cincinnati	1:00
26. Tampa Bay at Chicago	12:00
27. Washington at Atlanta	1:00

Monday, September 21

28. New England at New York Jets	(ABC) 9:00
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THIRD WEEK

Sunday, September 27 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

29. Atlanta at New Orleans	12:00
30. Buffalo at Dallas	12:00
31. Chicago at Detroit	1:00
32. Cincinnati at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
33. Green Bay at Tampa Bay	1:00
34. Indianapolis at St. Louis	12:00
35. Los Angeles Raiders at Houston	12:00
36. Minnesota at Kansas City	12:00
37. New England at Washington	1:00
38. New York Jets at Pittsburgh	4:00
39. New York Giants at Miami	1:00
40. Philadelphia at San Francisco	1:00
41. Seattle at San Diego	1:00

Monday, September 28

42. Denver at Cleveland	(ABC) 9:00
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FOURTH WEEK

Sunday, October 4 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

43. Chicago at Philadelphia	1:00
44. Cleveland at New England	1:00
45. Dallas at New York Jets	4:00
46. Green Bay at Minnesota	12:00
47. Houston at Denver	2:00
48. Indianapolis at Buffalo	1:00
49. Kansas City at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
50. Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans	12:00
51. Miami at Seattle	1:00
52. Pittsburgh at Atlanta	1:00
53. St. Louis at Washington	1:00
54. San Diego at Cincinnati	1:00
55. Tampa Bay at Detroit	1:00

Monday, October 5

56. San Francisco at New York Giants	(ABC) 9:00
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FIFTH WEEK

Sunday, October 11 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

57. Atlanta at San Francisco	1:00
58. Buffalo at New England	1:00
59. Cincinnati at Seattle	1:00
60. Detroit at Green Bay	12:00
61. Houston at Cleveland	1:00
62. Kansas City at Miami	1:00
63. Minnesota at Chicago	12:00
64. New Orleans at St. Louis	12:00
65. New York Jets at Indianapolis	12:00
66. Philadelphia at Dallas	12:00
67. Pittsburgh at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
68. San Diego at Tampa Bay	1:00
69. Washington at New York Giants	4:00

Monday, October 12

70. Los Angeles Raiders at Denver	(ABC) 7:00
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SIXTH WEEK

Sunday, October 18 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

71. Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
72. Denver at Kansas City	3:00
73. Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	1:00
74. Los Angeles Rams at Atlanta	1:00
75. Miami at New York Jets	1:00
76. New England at Houston	12:00
77. New Orleans at Chicago	12:00
78. New York Giants at Buffalo	4:00
79. Philadelphia at Green Bay	12:00
80. St. Louis at San Francisco	1:00
81. San Diego at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
82. Seattle at Detroit	1:00
83. Tampa Bay at Minnesota	12:00

Monday, October 19

84. Washington at Dallas	(ABC) 8:00
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SEVENTH WEEK

Sunday, October 25 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

85. Atlanta at Houston	12:00
86. Buffalo at Miami	1:00
87. Chicago at Tampa Bay	1:00
88. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	1:00
89. Dallas at Philadelphia	1:00
90. Denver at Minnesota	12:00
91. Green Bay at Detroit	1:00
92. Kansas City at San Diego	1:00
93. New England at Indianapolis	1:00
94. New York Jets at Washington	1:00
95. St. Louis at New York Giants	4:00
96. San Francisco at New Orleans	12:00
97. Seattle at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00

Monday, October 26

98. Los Angeles Rams at Cleveland	(ABC) 9:00
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EIGHTH WEEK

Sunday, November 1 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

99. Cleveland at San Diego	1:00
100. Detroit at Denver	2:00
101. Houston at Cincinnati	1:00
102. Indianapolis at New York Jets	1:00
103. Kansas City at Chicago	12:00
104. Los Angeles Raiders at New England	1:00
105. Minnesota at Seattle	1:00
106. New Orleans at Atlanta	1:00
107. Philadelphia at St. Louis	12:00
108. Pittsburgh at Miami	1:00
109. San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
110. Tampa Bay vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
111. Washington at Buffalo	1:00

Monday, November 2

112. New York Giants at Dallas	(ABC) 8:00
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NINTH WEEK

Sunday, November 8 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

113. Atlanta at Cleveland	1:00
114. Chicago at Green Bay	12:00
115. Dallas at Detroit	1:00
116. Denver at Buffalo	1:00
117. Houston at San Francisco	1:00
118. Los Angeles Raiders at Minnesota	12:00
119. Miami at Cincinnati	4:00
120. New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
121. Pittsburgh at Kansas City	12:00
122. San Diego at Indianapolis	1:00
123. Tampa Bay at St. Louis	12:00
124. Washington at Philadelphia	1:00

Sunday Night

125. New England at New York Giants	(ESPN) 8:00
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Monday, November 9

126. Seattle at New York Jets	(ABC) 9:00
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TENTH WEEK

Sunday, November 15 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

127. Buffalo at Cleveland	1:00
128. Cincinnati at Atlanta	4:00
129. Dallas at New England	1:00
130. Detroit at Washington	1:00
131. Green Bay at Seattle	1:00
132. Houston at Pittsburgh	1:00
133. Indianapolis at Miami	1:00
134. Los Angeles Rams at St. Louis	12:00
135. Minnesota at Tampa Bay	1:00
136. New Orleans at San Francisco	1:00
137. New York Giants at Philadelphia	4:00
138. New York Jets at Kansas City	12:00

Sunday Night

139. Los Angeles Raiders at San Diego	(ESPN) 5:00
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Monday, November 16

140. Chicago at Denver	(ABC) 7:00
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ELEVENTH WEEK

Sunday, November 22 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

141. Atlanta at Minnesota	12:00
142. Buffalo at New York Jets	1:00
143. Cleveland at Houston	12:00
144. Denver at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
145. Detroit at Chicago	12:00
146. Green Bay at Kansas City	12:00
147. Indianapolis at New England	1:00
148. New York Giants at New Orleans	3:00
149. Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
150. St. Louis at Philadelphia	1:00
151. San Diego at Seattle	1:00
152. San Francisco at Tampa Bay	1:00

Sunday Night

153. Miami at Dallas	(ESPN) 7:00
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Monday, November 23

154. Los Angeles Rams at Washington	(ABC) 9:00
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TWELFTH WEEK

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

155. Kansas City at Detroit	(NBC) 12:30
156. Minnesota at Dallas	(CBS) 3:00

Sunday, November 29 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

157. Cincinnati at New York Jets	1:00
158. Denver at San Diego	1:00
159. Green Bay at Chicago	12:00
160. Houston at Indianapolis	1:00
161. Miami at Buffalo	1:00
162. New Orleans at Pittsburgh	1:00
163. New York Giants at Washington	4:00
164. Philadelphia at New England	1:00
165. St. Louis at Atlanta	1:00
166. Tampa Bay at Los Angeles Rams	1:00

Sunday Night

167. Cleveland at San Francisco	(ESPN) 5:00
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Monday, November 30

168. Los Angeles Raiders at Seattle	(ABC) 6:00
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THIRTEENTH WEEK

Sunday, December 6 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

169. Atlanta at Dallas	12:00
170. Buffalo at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
171. Indianapolis at Cleveland	1:00
172. Kansas City at Cincinnati	1:00
173. Los Angeles Rams at Detroit	1:00
174. New England at Denver	2:00
175. Philadelphia at New York Giants	1:00
176. San Diego at Houston	12:00
177. San Francisco at Green Bay	12:00
178. Seattle at Pittsburgh	1:00
179. Tampa Bay at New Orleans	3:00
180. Washington at St. Louis	12:00

Sunday Night

181. Chicago at Minnesota	(ESPN) 7:00
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Monday, December 7

182. New York Jets at Miami	(ABC) 9:00
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FOURTEENTH WEEK

Sunday, December 13 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

183. Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
184. Buffalo at Indianapolis	1:00
185. Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00
186. Dallas at Washington	1:00
187. Detroit at Tampa Bay	4:00
188. Houston at New Orleans	12:00
189. Los Angeles Raiders at Kansas City	3:00
190. Miami at Philadelphia	1:00
191. Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
192. New York Giants at St. Louis	3:00
193. New York Jets at New England	1:00
194. Pittsburgh at San Diego	1:00

Sunday Night

195. Denver at Seattle	(ESPN) 5:00
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Monday, December 14

196. Chicago at San Francisco	(ABC) 6:00
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FIFTEENTH WEEK

Saturday, December 19

197. Green Bay at New York Giants	(CBS) 12:30
198. Kansas City at Denver	(NBC) 2:00

Sunday, December 20 (NBC-TV doubleheader)

199. Cleveland at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
200. Indianapolis at San Diego	1:00
201. Minnesota at Detroit	1:00
202. New England at Buffalo	1:00
203. New Orleans at Cincinnati	1:00
204. Philadelphia at New York Jets	1:00
205. Pittsburgh at Houston	12:00
206. St. Louis at Tampa Bay	4:00
207. San Francisco at Atlanta	1:00
208. Seattle at Chicago	12:00

Sunday Night

209. Washington at Miami	(ESPN) 8:00
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Monday, December 21

210. Dallas at Los Angeles Rams	(ABC) 6:00
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SIXTEENTH WEEK

Saturday, December 26

211. Cleveland at Pittsburgh	(NBC) 12:30
212. Washington at Minnesota	(CBS) 3:00

Sunday, December 27 (CBS-TV doubleheader)

213. Buffalo at Philadelphia	1:00
214. Chicago at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
215. Cincinnati at Houston	12:00
216. Detroit at Atlanta	1:00
217. Green Bay at New Orleans	12:00
218. New York Jets at New York Giants	1:00
219. St. Louis at Dallas	12:00
220. San Diego at Denver	2:00
221. Seattle at Kansas City	12:00
222. Tampa Bay at Indianapolis	1:00

Sunday Night

223. Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco	(ESPN) 5:00
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Monday, December 28

224. New England at Miami	(ABC) 9:00
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POSTSEASON

Sunday, January 3..... AFC-NFC First-Round Playoffs (NBC and CBS)

Saturday, January 9..... AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)

Sunday, January 10..... AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)

Sunday, January 17..... AFC-NFC Championship Games (NBC and CBS)

Sunday, January 31..... Super Bowl XXII at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, California (ABC)

Sunday, February 7..... AFC-NFC Pro Bowl Honolulu, Hawaii (ESPN)

All times local.

CBS and NBC television doubleheader games to be determined.



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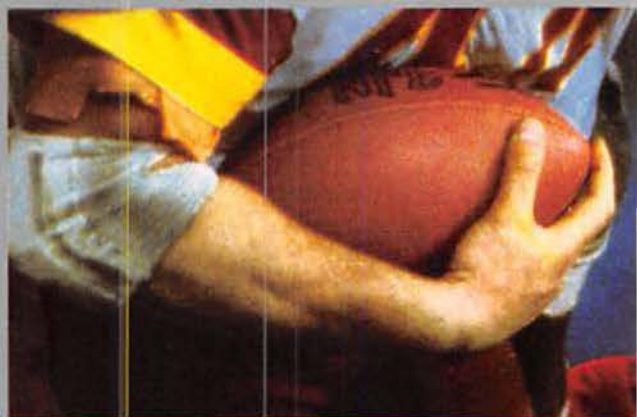
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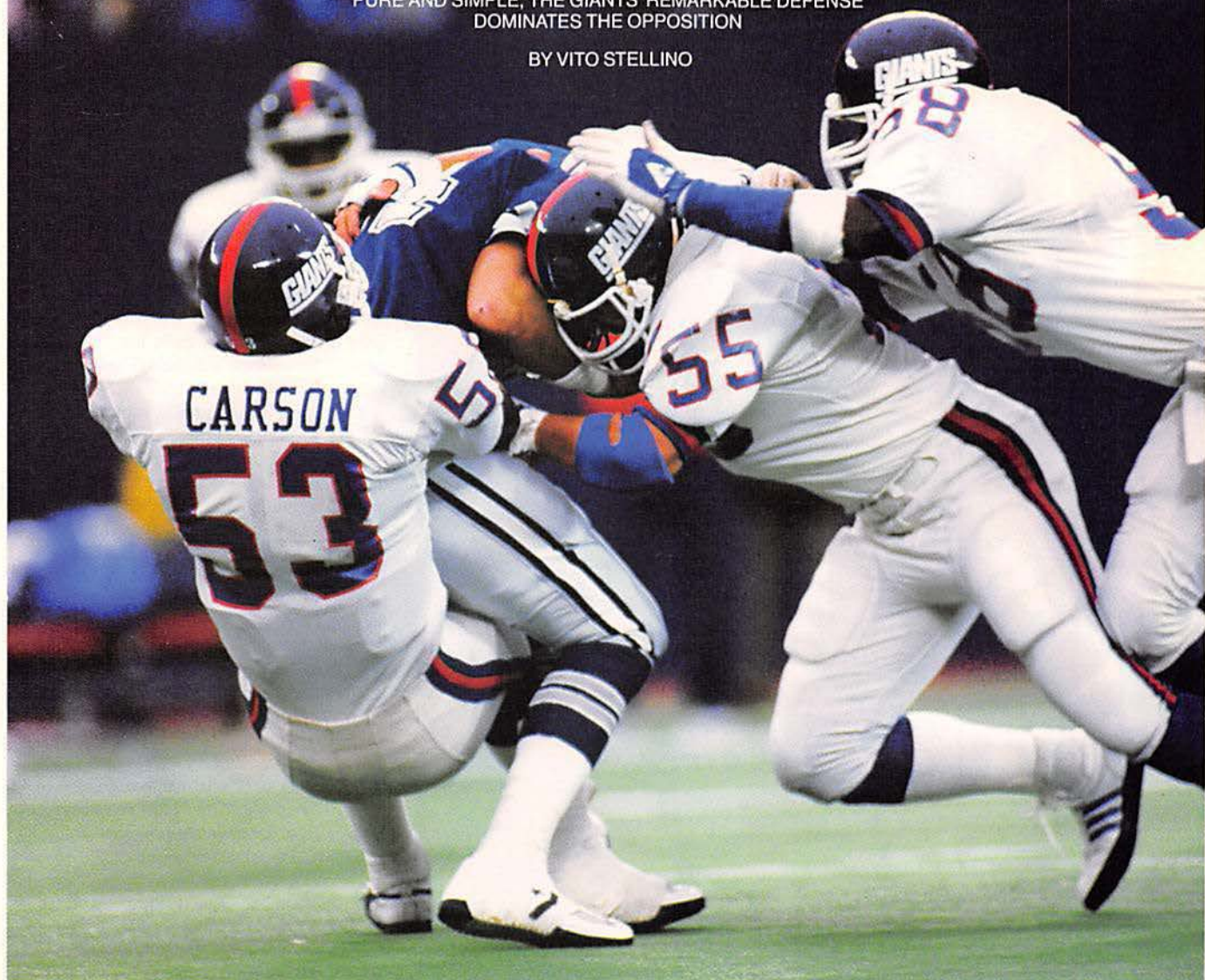
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NO NICKNAME, NO NONSENSE

PURE AND SIMPLE, THE GIANTS' REMARKABLE DEFENSE
DOMINATES THE OPPOSITION

BY VITO STELLINO



Jim Turner

It was at old Yankee Stadium that the now familiar chant was first heard cascading out of the rafters three decades ago: DEE-fense, DEE-fense, DEE-fense. . . .

Pro football historians think New York Giants fans invented that chant in the mid-1950s. There's no doubt the Giants were the first modern NFL team to glamorize defense.

Long before the Fearsome Foursome, the Steel Curtain, the Purple People Eaters, Doomsday I and II, and the No-Name Defense became household words, the Giants' defense made it big on Broadway.

The 1950s were the days of Huff, Patton, Robustelli, Grier, Tunnell, and the rest of the men who made defensive players larger-than-life heroes.

That's why it was appropriate that when

Linebackers Harry Carson (53), Gary Reasons (55), and Carl Banks were three reasons why New York's defense was first in the NFL against the run.

the Giants ended their championship drought of three decades last January, they did it again with a defense that was as relentless as a school of piranha.

"We buried all the ghosts," head coach Bill Parcells said last January in the Rose Bowl after the Giants routed the Denver Broncos 39-20 in Super Bowl XXI to win their first NFL championship since 1956.

What they really did was resurrect a glorious legacy that had fallen on hard times.

A lot of things have changed since the Giants last won a championship. They've

changed states and stadiums. They've changed their defensive scheme from a 4-3 to a 3-4.

The Giants' defenses of the fifties and eighties have something in common, though. The earlier version didn't have a catchy nickname, and neither does the current one.

George Young, the no-nonsense type who took over as Giants general manager in 1979 and methodically rebuilt the team, likes the fact the defense doesn't have a nickname.

"I hope we'll always continue to lack that [a nickname]," Young says. "I'd rather have a colorless, successful defense without a nickname."

Young is one of three men who played major roles in putting the defense together.

The other two are Parcells and Bill Belichick, who took over as defensive coordinator



when Parcells became the head coach in 1983.

Young drafted the players. Parcells installed the 3-4 defense when he was hired by Ray Perkins in 1981 as defensive coordinator. Belichick picked up where Parcells left off.

It helps that Young and Parcells have the same philosophy about the importance of defense in the building of a football team.

"You've got to be able to have a strong defense and you've got to be able to run the ball when God turns down the heat and turns up the wind," Young says. "That's a philosophy that goes back to high school."

Young once coached high school football in Baltimore. The Giants operate with those same basic football principles, which never go out of style on any level.

"Our feeling on defense is that you've got to stop the run first," Belichick says. "We have a pretty big team physically. We look for size first. We want to force the other team to throw."

That's the Giants. Big, strong, tough players who dictate the way the game is played. They're what Parcells calls his "lunch-pail guys." New York led the NFL in defense against the run last year.

The Giants are a no-frills team.

"We're pretty vanilla," Belichick says. "We don't use the fronts and multiple looks that some of the other teams use. We concentrate on technique and doing what we do well rather than trying to confuse the offense. They know where we're going to be."

Parcells likes to put the emphasis on the linebackers in the 3-4 defense, and he collects them the way some men collect stamps.

"Some other teams think a little differently," Parcells says. "They think defensive linemen are more important. They protect the linebackers. In our scheme, they protect to a degree, but not to the degree they do in the four-three."

It isn't an accident that the Giants are a physically strong team. They've spent hours in the weight room developing that strength.

In fact, Parcells thinks one of the keys of the team's success has been the building of a weight room at Giants Stadium after he became head coach.

"It's just been tremendous," he says. "It's unified our team. That one lousy room. It's a sanctuary for our players."

Thus, Parcells credits the hiring of strength and conditioning coach Johnny Parker as another critical factor in the development of the Giants.

Parcells also likes to have a lot of depth on his team. "The idea is to collect good players and try to use them in roles," he says. "When Lawrence Taylor got hurt against the Redskins [in the NFC Championship Game], we didn't have to think twice. We said 'Carl Banks, you go play where Taylor was playing. Byron Hunt, you go play where Banks was playing.' We didn't miss a beat."

The coach likes to downplay his part and

Nose tackle Jim Burt, a 1981 free agent, overcame skeptics who said he wasn't tall enough or good enough to play.



Safety Terry Kinard (43) had four interceptions, including this one he carried like a loaf of bread. Lawrence Taylor goes airborne to avoid San Diego's Lionel James.

highlight the players' role in the team's success story.

"Let me tell you something," Parcels says. "All them guys that are great coaches, it's because they've got really good players. That's what it is. You get good players, you organize them, then all of a sudden . . ."

All of a sudden, the Giants are the best team in football.

The player it all starts with on defense is outside linebacker Lawrence Taylor.

"When you sit down on Monday before you play the Giants, Lawrence Taylor is the first thing out of your mouth," says Joe Bugel, the Redskins' offensive line coach.

"What you do with your passing game and with your running game depends entirely on where he's lining up. The first problem is location. Then, who's going to block him? And it can't be a 180-pound halfback."

John Madden, the CBS analyst, says, "He is the most dominant defensive player I've ever seen. You can't run away from him and you can't block him. He changes your whole approach to the game. He intimidates by sheer force."

Parcells says that players of Taylor's ability never used to play defense.

"They took guys like Lawrence who could really run and made them fullbacks and tight ends," Parcels says. "Now, all the fast guys

are on defense. In the pros, more people are trying to get players like him and you'll see more linebackers used to rush the passer."

Taylor is so good that Parker, the strength and conditioning coach, wonders what he'll be like if he ever starts lifting weights, an activity that isn't one of Taylor's favorites.

"Imagine if the sun got one percent hotter," Parker says. "It would burn up the earth. Lawrence is like the sun."

Taylor still manages to burn opposing teams. He became more dangerous after the Giants started moving him from side to side to make it more difficult for opposing teams to plan their blocking schemes.

"Moving him around creates a little problem for the offense," Belichick says.

Jim Mora, the New Orleans head coach, says, "You always have to account for him in blocking schemes, but they create mismatches by moving him around. You try to get best on best, but you can't always do it."

If Taylor, the second player drafted in 1981 after New Orleans selected George Rogers, was the first major piece in the building of a championship defense, the drafting of Banks, the third player selected in 1984, was another vital piece.

The Giants had more pressing needs—notably in their offensive line—when they chose Banks that season after New England had taken Irving Fryar and Houston had selected Dean Steinkuhler.

But Banks was the "best available player" on the board, so New York grabbed him.

"I hate that cliché, 'best player,'" Young says. "I get out of it by saying, 'best value.'"

"There's nothing worse than having the cop-out of taking a guy because of a position



Playing quarterback against the Giants can be hazardous to your health, as the Cowboys' Steve Pelluer found out when cornerback Perry Williams sacked him.



Linebacker Lawrence Taylor (56) knocked a lot of players down, and Saints running back Buford Jordan was one of them.

need while the guy we overlooked goes to the Hall of Fame."

Young wasn't going to overlook Banks, even though the Giants already had solid line-backing. Banks's emergence as a genuine superstar in 1986 made his decision look even better.

Dallas head coach Tom Landry says, "The strength of their defense lies in their linebackers, with Taylor on one side and Banks on the other. Banks is the biggest improvement."

"It's not hard to prepare a game plan for the Giants because they use such a basic alignment. You know *where* they are, but they're just very hard to control."

The defense that is so hard to control was put together in various ways.

Taylor, Banks, and safety Terry Kinard, who was sidelined with a knee injury late last season and missed the playoffs, were the three defensive starters selected on the first round. Kinard was the team's first selection in 1983.

Of the other five players besides Taylor and Banks in the front seven, two (left end George Martin and inside linebacker Harry Carson) were holdovers from the pre-George Young era. Only one other player on the team, offensive tackle Brad Benson, was a Giant before Young began his reconstruction project.

Carson and Martin lived through the bad old days and survived long enough to drink champagne. They savored the success because they had gone through the tough times.

"I've practically eliminated a lot of stuff from my memory," Carson says. "Golf balls being thrown, apples, oranges, tickets being burned, airplanes flying overhead towing signs saying 'Fifteen Years of Lousy Football . . .,' people walking out. I was just playing for myself when the team wasn't doing well."

Two other starters up front—inside linebacker Gary Reasons and right end Leonard Marshall—were draft picks. Marshall was a second-round selection in 1983, Reasons a fourth-round choice in 1984.

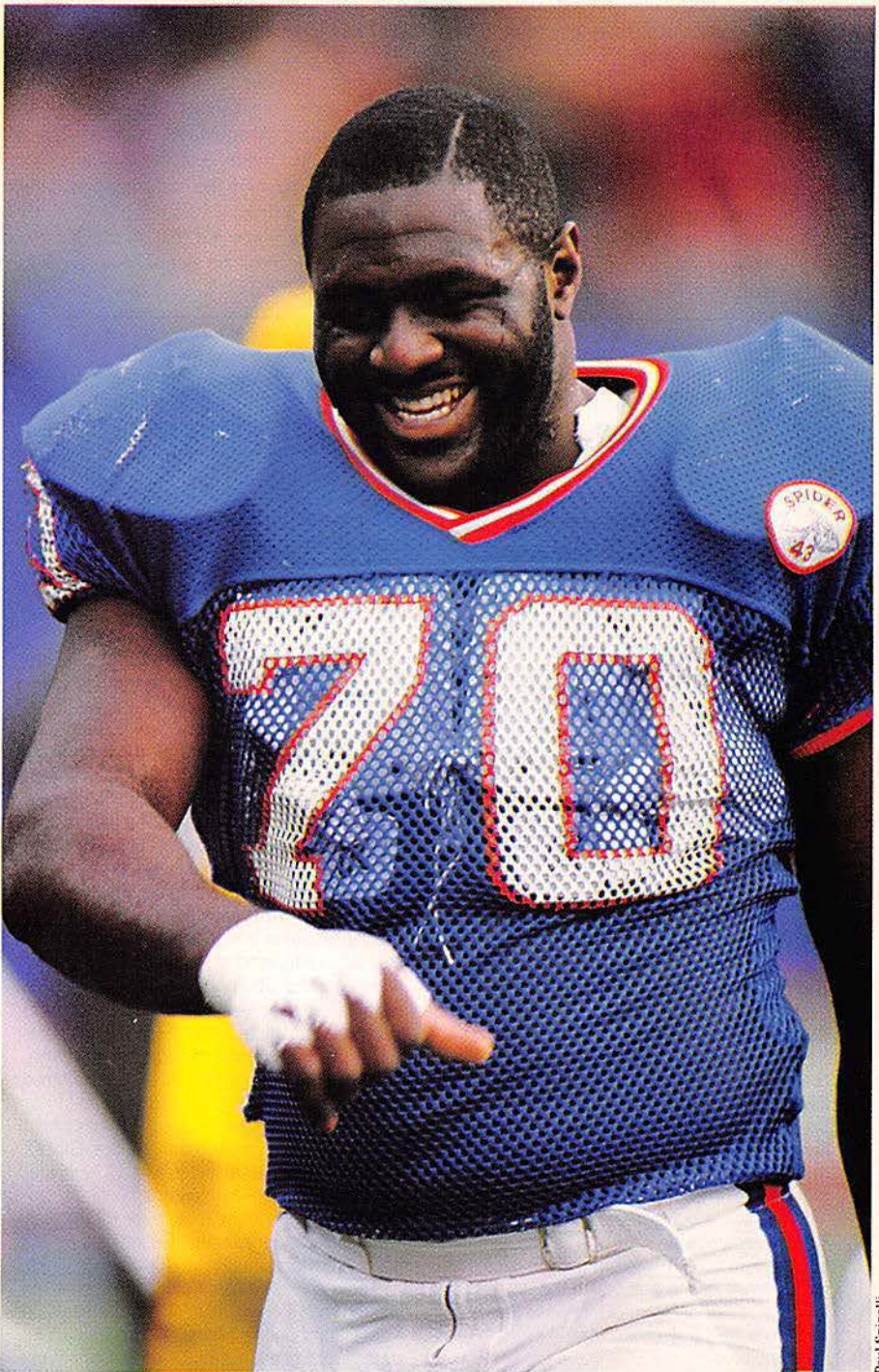
The other starter, nose tackle Jim Burt, made it the hard way, as a free agent in 1981. One of the team's most ebullient players, he jumped into the stands after the NFC title game victory over the Redskins to celebrate with his family and friends.

But to make it, Burt had to overcome the skeptics, who said he wasn't tall enough at 6-1, and also a painful back injury. "Everything is always more important to you when you have to work hard for it," Burt says.

It was Burt who started the tradition of dumping Gatorade on Parcells in 1984 after a game against the Redskins. It was more rage than fun at the time.

Parcells had goaded him all week to fire him up. He berated him and made him mash five-pound dumbbells into a wall, over and over. The Giants won, and it was Burt's chance for revenge.

"The players couldn't believe it when I did it," Burt says. "They were all really tense and their mouths were just hanging open. Then they saw him laugh and they knew it was all right."



Paul Spinelli

Defensive end Leonard Marshall's 12 sacks were second on the defense only to Lawrence Taylor's NFL-leading 20½. Both went to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl.

Now the Gatorade bath has become the Giants' victory signature—their version of Red Auerbach lighting up his cigar after a Boston Celtics victory—with team captain Carson doing the honors most of the time.

The Giants' front seven usually dominates a game, which takes the pressure off the four men in the secondary.

There are two versions of the caliber of that secondary. The Giants claim the secondary is better than its reputation. But there are skeptics.

Cornerback Elvis Patterson, for example, was nicknamed "Toast" after being burned so often.

"In some areas, the linebackers and the defensive line got too much of the credit and the secondary too much of the blame," Belichick says. "The microscope has been on those guys in the secondary and they've taken a lot more criticism than they deserve. We feel comfortable and confident with the group."

Bobby Beathard, the Redskins' general manager, has a different view. "The Giants have one weakness and it's their secondary, but we couldn't take advantage of it," he says. "Not many other teams could, either. They have such a strong front seven that they cover up their deficiencies."

Four members of the front seven—Taylor,

Marshall, Carson, and Burt—were voted to the NFC Pro Bowl squad.

Danny White, the Dallas quarterback who was knocked out for the season with a broken wrist when he was blitzed by Banks, will debate the question of whether the Giants have a weakness.

"What's so tough about their defense?" White asks. "That's like saying, 'What's so good about chocolate cake?' I always felt that their strength was that they had no weakness-

es. They have a tremendous knack for covering the field and pressuring the quarterback. Normally, you expect one thing or the other."

There's no argument that the Redskins couldn't take advantage of New York's secondary. The Giants beat the Redskins three times last year and the difference was more lopsided each time.

Head coach Joe Gibbs of the Redskins doesn't even think he is qualified to discuss the Giants' defense.

THE 'WIZARD' WHO RUNS THE DEFENSE



Al Messersmith

Bill Belichick: the Giants' boy wonder.

Defensive end George Martin of the New York Giants likes to joke about the age of his team's defensive coordinator, 35-year-old Bill Belichick.

"The thing I can't figure out is why they call him the young brains of the defense," Martin says. "They call me an over-the-hill player and he's one year older than I am."

Belichick's youthful appearance—he looks even younger than his 35 years—betrays the fact he is in his thirteenth season as an assistant coach and called the signals for the Giants' Super Bowl XXI defense last year.

"I think he's a wizard," Martin says. "He's so innovative."

Defensive end Leonard Marshall says, "When you first get here, you kind of wonder about this young guy who's coaching you. Who is he? What does he know? But he earns your respect quickly with his knowledge and work habits and, after that, you don't wonder anymore."

"I've never looked at age as an obstacle or a factor," Belichick says. "If you're twenty-five, you're twenty-five. If you're eighty-five, you're eighty-five. You just have to be yourself."

Belichick never aspired to play pro football—he says he was a better lacrosse player than football player—and he wasn't sure he wanted to try coaching when he graduated from Wesleyan, even though his father Steve has been an assistant coach at Navy for 31 years.

His first thought was to study economics while working as a graduate assistant at North Carolina State for Lou Holtz in 1975. But when the graduate assistant program was cut back, Belichick needed an alternative.

He decided to try to catch on with a pro football team, and he had one major qualification: He was willing to work for free.

He called the Baltimore Colts, and head coach Ted Marchibroda liked the idea of having an eager, young assistant to break down films and do odd jobs. Belichick was hired for the princely sum of \$25 a week.

It wasn't long before he found himself doing more than he expected. "Things kept coming along and I did them," he recalls. "Here I was, four months out of college, looking at films of guys like Stabler and Namath. I was kind of awed by it. I learned how to get the job done."

The following year, Rick Forzano, who first met Belichick when Forzano was the head coach at Navy, called him. Forzano, who was the head coach at Detroit, offered him a raise to move to the Lions.

Belichick spent two years in Detroit and a year in Denver before he got the Giants' special teams coaching job in 1979 under new head coach Ray Perkins.

When Bill Parcells took over in 1981 as the defensive coordinator, Belichick's duties were expanded.

"I asked Ray if I could work him in with the linebackers to help me," Parcells says. "I wanted him on the headsets. He had an instant grasp of a situation. I knew right away he was going to be a big help."

Belichick took over as the defensive coordinator in 1983, when Parcells became the head coach, even though Belichick didn't get the title until 1985.

"Bill collects all the information and basically makes the game plan," Parcells says. "He's in charge of the defense. He's a very bright guy with a vast amount of experience for being as young as he is. He's done a terrific job for us."

The next logical step for Belichick would be to move on to a head coaching post.

Belichick isn't looking ahead, however. He enjoys the job he has.

"I don't think that far ahead," he says. "I'm optimistic about the future, but it's (a head coaching job) not an obsession."

—Vito Stellino

"I'm the last person you should ask," he says. "I tried three times and we didn't do anything. They want to play us every day."

The Giants' defense was so good that comparisons with the Bears' 46 Defense of 1985 are inevitable.

The comparisons are difficult, though, because the teams have such different philosophies. The Bears' 46 Defense featured a four-man line and a lot of alignments, in contrast to the Giants' basic 3-4 approach.

The results, however, were about the same. Both were intimidating.

Joe Theismann, the former Redskins' quarterback whose career was ended in 1985 when he got caught under Taylor and broke his leg, says, "It's like comparing apples and oranges. But these are quality apples and oranges. And neither is fun."

Ted Plumb, the assistant head coach-of-defense for the Philadelphia Eagles, got a close look at both defenses. He was an assistant with the Bears before joining the Eagles—a team in the Giants' division—last year.

"They're very similar in the sense of intimidation," he says. "They keep coming after you, and the more the game goes on, the less effective the offense is."

Plumb feels that four defenses in the past 15 years stand above the pack. In no particular order, he ranks the Bears and Giants with two from the 1970s—Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain and Miami's No-Name Defense.

The Steelers, who did it twice, and the Dolphins won back-to-back Super Bowls. Chicago failed to repeat last year, and now the Giants have a shot at it.

It may be hard to believe, but the Giants' defense could get even better in the next year or two. The first six players the team drafted last year—including four on the second round—all were defensive players and all have good potential.

Three of those six players—Eric Dorsey, Erik Howard, and John Washington—give the Giants a second line to back Martin, Burt, and Marshall. Dorsey is being groomed to replace 13-year veteran Martin.

Thomas (Pepper) Johnson will push four-year veteran Reasons at linebacker, a position where the Giants already have good depth with Hunt and Andy Headen. Second-year players Mark Collins and Greg Lasker have potential to help in the secondary.

The only question about the Giants is whether they'll have problems coping with being champions. No team has repeated in this decade.

"You hope they'll become complacent like other Super Bowl teams, but you can't count on that," the Redskins' Beathard says.

Young says, "The question is whether they'll stay in the same mental frame of mind. It's still socioeconomic. Hungry players make better competitors. It never changes."

Parcells likes to think his team can avoid the pitfalls. "I've got some pretty good leadership on this team," he says.

He's also got a defense that brings back memories of the chants at Yankee Stadium 30 years ago.

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PAYTON ON PAYTON

THE BEARS' GREAT RUNNING BACK
REVIEWS THE HIGHS—AND LOWS—OF HIS FIRST
12 SEASONS

BY JEFF FELLENER

It's hard to believe, but number 34 has turned 33.

Any way you choose to measure his professional accomplishments, the available evidence points out one simple truth: There never has been a runner quite like Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears.

Check out some of these numbers, as Payton, a.k.a. "Sweetness," sets sail on his thirteenth season in the NFL: 16,193 career rushing yards, the most in NFL history; 21,053 combined yards (rushing, receiving, kick returns), the most in NFL history; 106 touchdowns rushing, tied for the most in NFL history; and 120 touchdowns overall, second-most in NFL history. He has been chosen to play in the AFC-

NFC Pro Bowl nine times, and has helped his team to a Super Bowl victory.

Now for the *piece de resistance*: In 12 seasons, playing the most physically demanding and short-lived position in football, Payton has missed one game. *One game.* And Payton, a proud man, still insists he could have played that day, too.

But that's only the half of it, the quantifiable half. No one is more admired or respected among his peers around the league than Payton. He's football's version of Julius Erving: a man's man and a pro's pro.

More than anything else, however, Walter Payton is just special.



Don Lusua

Your first 100-yard rushing day came against San Francisco on November 16, 1975. Is rushing for 100 yards still meaningful to you?

"When you gain a hundred yards, it means you're moving the ball down the field. But I've found, over the years, that some of the best games I played I didn't gain a hundred yards. And some of the worst games I've played, games that I don't even want to remember, I gained a hundred yards and it didn't mean that much.

"I think it's up to the individual

what one puts values on. If it's only personal achievements that count, then a hundred yards probably means a lot. But to me, the whole focus is to win. The more you win as a team, the better you get as a team. The more you accomplish as an individual, the harder it is to maintain it [such a high level], simply because people you play with tend to say, 'Why him? Why is he getting this and not me? I'm not going to play as hard.' That's why winning means a lot more to me than a hundred yards."



Darryl Norenberg

The first regular-season game you played in was on September 21, 1975, against the Baltimore Colts. How did you feel that day?

"It was Jack Pardee's first game as [the Bears'] head coach. At that time, the Colts had a pretty good team. We did some things well, and we did some things that weren't too good at all. I ended up with, I think, minus-something yards rushing [actually, zero yards on eight carries].

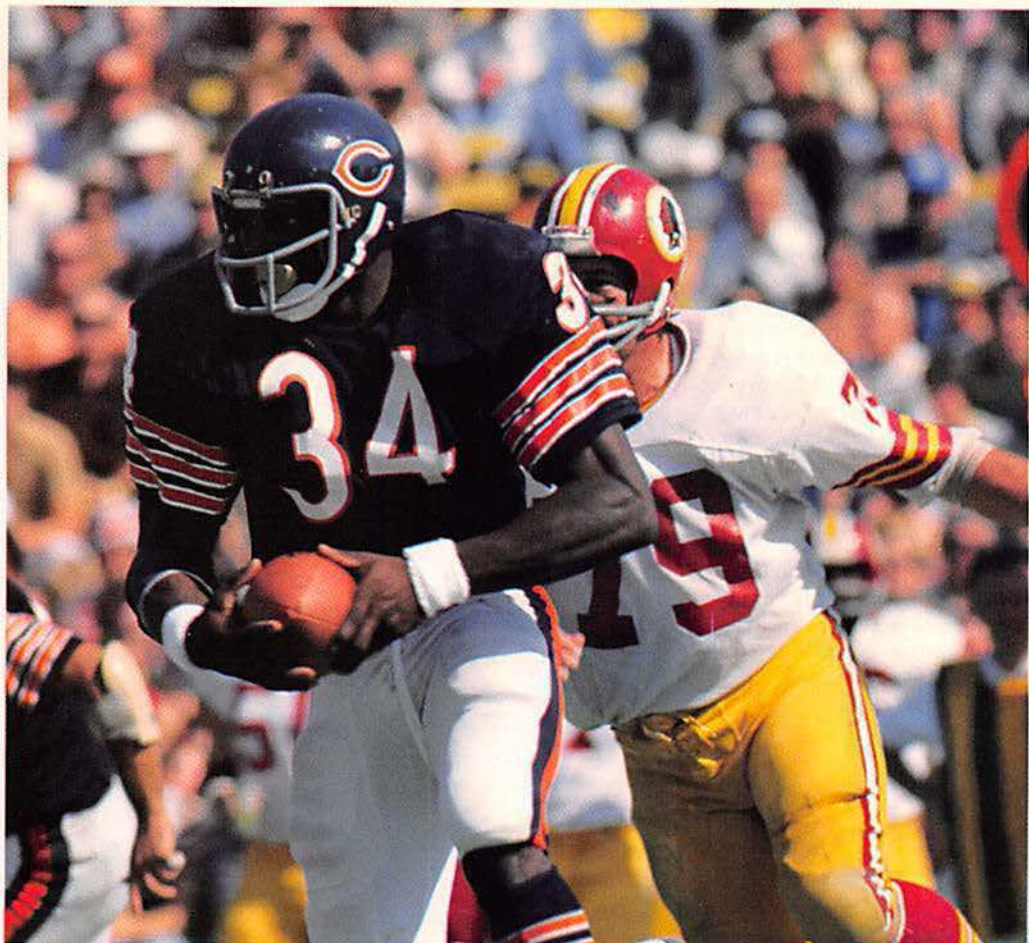
"I was a little bit nervous, and not able to control the hyper feelings that were in me. You're always nervous. I'm still nervous when I go out there. But I'm able to control it. Right then, I really didn't know how to do it. The level of competition never entered my mind. All I knew was that once you got out there on the football field, you had to play, regardless of who you were playing against. I've always been taught, 'Take no prisoners.' "

Did your initial thousand-yard rushing season—1,390 yards in 1976—give you special satisfaction?

"It did. The previous year [rookie season of 1975] was a learning experience. The only thing I got out of the first year, because of all the changes and weeding out of people, was finding that the place where I could exploit my talents was kickoff returns. I led the league.

"Gaining a thousand yards meant something to me because the previous year I was disappointed in my performance as a whole. Though I led the team in rushing, I didn't feel that I had exerted myself to the fullest, for the team as well as for myself. That year [1976], gaining a thousand yards . . . it felt good. And it proved to me that I could play in this league. It's scary, too, because you do it once and then it adds more pressure the next year.

"A lot of people look at statistics and say, 'Well, he didn't gain a thousand yards or he didn't gain 1,500 yards,' but my contributions come in other areas besides just running the ball . . . like blocking, catching, decoying . . . whatever is asked of me."



Tony Tomasic



Bill Smith

On November 20, 1977, you rushed for 275 yards against Minnesota in Chicago to set a new single-game record. What was that game like?

"It was a cold day and I was feeling weak. Right before the game I didn't feel good; I had a flu bug coming on. I didn't even think I was going to play.

"Earlier in the season I had a 200-yard game against the Packers [205 yards], and the coach took me out of the game when I only needed one yard to break Gale Sayers's [Bears' single-game] record. When this one happened, and I got up to somewhere like 271 or 273 yards, we were down on the ten-yard line. Instead of kicking the field goal, we tried a run, and that's when I got the 275. Some people were a little bit disappointed in [coach Jack] Pardee for running the ball, as opposed to kicking a field goal and going for the points, which we might have needed because of the playoff point system then. In the back of his mind, I think he was thinking that he had taken me out earlier, and I had been disappointed. It's just by the luck and grace of God that the record still stands."

Does the violence of football bother you?

"That's what I love about the game . . . that's what keeps me going: the one-on-one confrontations. It's a team sport, but there are some things that bring it to a personal level. What I like about it is when I have to go up against a guy and see who's the best. If he's better than me on that particular play, it gives me incentive to come back the next play. If I'm better than him on the first play, then it gives me even more incentive to maintain that edge."

"The conditioning that I do gets me ready. Last year, I almost passed out a couple of times, simply from working and pushing myself so hard. To do better and be able to maintain, you've got to get yourself in better shape than you were the previous year. That's getting harder for me to do."



Robert Shaver



Rick Kolodziej

You now have run for 106 touchdowns to tie Jim Brown as the NFL's all-time leader. Do you look forward to scoring touchdowns?

"For a long time I wasn't concerned about touchdowns. I just wanted to move the ball down the field. That's still my view. I just want to move the ball, get it into the end zone, and then win the game. I guess my views are different from a lot of other people who would rather be running it in from down there. I feel that if I can block better than the next guy, as opposed to running, then I'd rather do that."

You don't celebrate in the end zone like some players do after scoring.

"I used to spike it or give it to my offensive linemen [to spike]. Now, I just drop it in and get ready for the next series. I think that's more professional than putting on a show. Most of the time when you put on a show, it's simply to excite the crowd and to kind of taunt the other team. But a lot of times, that gives them more incentive to come back and not let you get it in there again."

Have you found being a good receiver difficult?

"I enjoy catching the ball. When you're playing sandlot football in grade school, you've got to be able to catch the ball or nobody will choose you. I think I catch the ball just as well as I run and block. It gives another dimension to our offense. I can remember taking some good hits and still holding onto the ball.

"I remember one game against the Cardinals during preseason, I caught a three- or four-yard crossing pass from Mike Phipps, who led me too long. As soon as I caught the ball, I was hit and separated my shoulder, but I still didn't fumble. That's my concern — just catch the ball and maintain it, regardless of what happens to you. You never know... that one play could win the game or end a career, but that's the risk you take. You have to live up to the pressure."



John Biever

How memorable was the run [on October 7, 1984, against New Orleans] that broke Jim Brown's career rushing record?

"It was nice... but I had a run that year in the [1984 NFC] Championship Game [a 23-0 loss at San Francisco] that meant more to me than this play because of how important it was and what it accomplished. People don't understand that. It was fourth-and-one and we were close to the end zone. We needed to get that one yard for the first down. They called me. I got hit in the backfield before I even got the ball, took off, two other guys hit me, I spun and lunged and finally got one yard... and it was a first down. That play stands out more than this play.

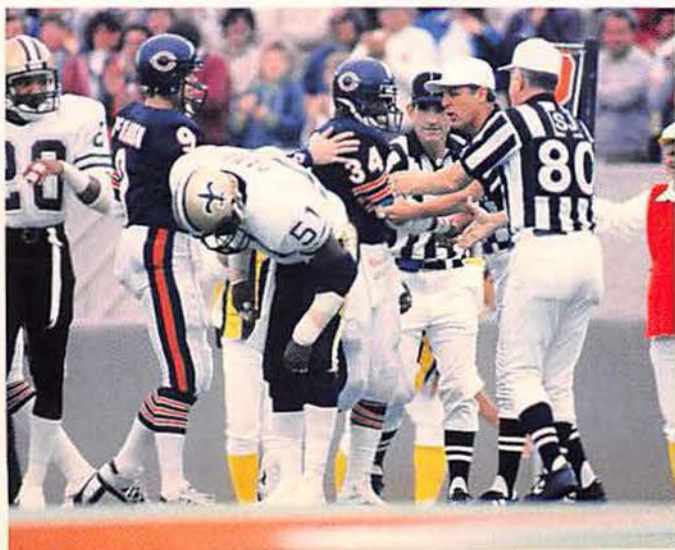
"I hardly even remember this one. All we needed was three yards, I think, to get it. The tension was there; I could see the other guys [the Saints] over there not wanting me to get it. Everybody else wanted me to get it. Finally it happened, and I got it out of the way. I was glad."

Were you nervous anticipating that climactic moment?

"No... I was a little bit aggravated by all of the attention that was being focused on it, making me the focal point. I'm a very personal person, a very sensitive person. Not only do I take into account my feelings, I take into account the feelings of the people around me that are closest to me. I



John Biever



John Biever

was getting all the attention, but the other guys were out there also. For that reason, I wanted to hurry up and get it over with so that things could get back to normal. I thought, 'Well, that's done; now we have some other things at hand to do.'"

It's still a great record. What did it mean to break it?

"It had kind of a shallow meaning to it. The way it is now, I look back at my accomplishments and say, 'Well, anybody could have done it.' And that's true, but I was the one who did it. I'm not belittling anything that I've accomplished. My point is, 12,000 yards wasn't my goal. It just happened to stand in the way of what I wanted to accomplish.

"Right now I'm at 16,000-something [16,193 entering the 1987 season], and that's a long way from 12,000, but I'm still not where I want to be. A lot of people say, 'You ought to be happy with what you've done.' I say to myself, if I'm happy with what I've done, it's time for me to get out of the game. And I'm not ready to get out yet."

Well, where do you want to be?

"Everybody has visions of where they want to be or things they want to do. I have those same aspirations—to be better than I am. Me? My goals are set; they've already been etched in stone. If I reach them, fine; if I don't reach them, I'm going to have a hell of a lot of fun trying."



John McDonough

How much did losing to the 49ers in the 1984 NFC Championship Game hurt?

"One of the saddest days of my football career. This was as close to a Super Bowl as I'd been in ten years. Those opportunities . . . they don't come around that many times. I felt that if I didn't make it then, I probably would never make it. That was one of the reasons why I was so sad. Right then I was visualizing a lot of things . . . all the playoff games we'd gotten into, all the games we'd had up until that point. Trying to find some ray of light in a very dim and dark situation. It was really hard to take."



David Boss

What does it mean to you to play in the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl?

"It has some positive reinforcement, but also some shallow ripples. You're selected by your peers . . . but then you look back over the years and there were a lot of other good players that should have been there, but they just didn't have the name. And then there were some that had the name and shouldn't have been there, but were there."

"One of my teammates, [fourth-year outside linebacker] Wilber Marshall, wanted to make it real bad two years ago, but

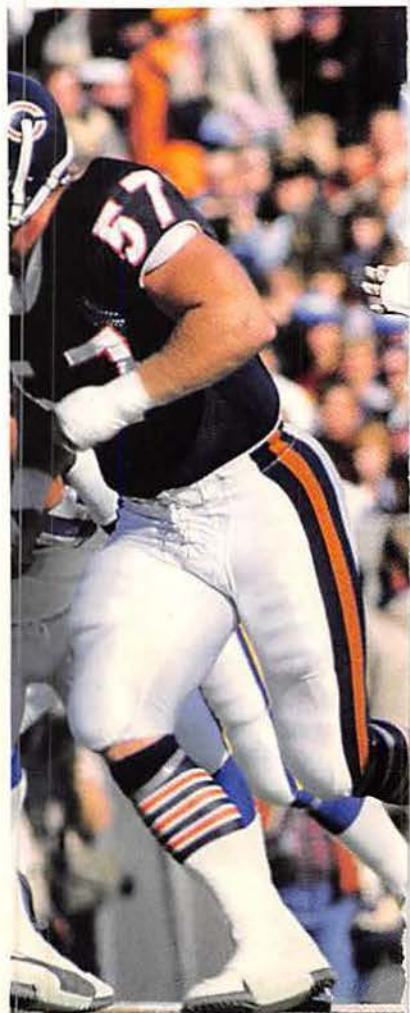
didn't. He came in last year and his goal was to make the Pro Bowl. I told him it's good to come in with those desires because that means, hopefully, you'll be the best at your position. But let's not lose the focus of our whole purpose of being here . . . and that is to win as a team. If your play is going to contribute to the team and make you better, or make you the best, then do it that way. But use that as the motivating factor, not just making the Pro Bowl . . . because that's an individual honor and a lot of times it's misleading." (Marshall was named to the NFC squad in 1987.)

The sweep has been a very effective play for you. What helps make it a success?

"Well, you've got to have some speed. You've got to have the blocking. And you have to have a pretty good field surface to run on. You've got to be scared, too. You see four guys coming at you and you're not scared? That's old alley talk there. Hey, you see four guys coming, you run . . . and you run fast."

You've only missed one game in 12 years [October 19, 1975, at Pittsburgh]. How have you done that?

"Let's set the record straight: I don't call that missing a game. I was ready to play and it was the stubbornness of the coach [Jack Pardee] to make a point by not putting me in. So I don't consider it missing a game. I was injured that week, but I could have played. I've played with worse injuries than that."



You talk about blocking a lot. It's obviously important to you.

"I love it. This is what the game is made of. Anybody can run the ball. But to be able to run, catch, and block . . . is totally awesome. That's what it's all about."

What's the most important block you made in your career?

"We played a game in Minnesota in 1985 and [quarterback] Jim [McMahon] came in from the sidelines and threw a touchdown on the first play. There was a blitzing linebacker reaching right at him, and, just as he was reaching, I took him out of the play. Another one was when we played the Giants in a playoff game that same year. Lawrence Taylor was coming in and I took him out. It's a great feeling."



Al Messerschmidt



Tony Tomasic

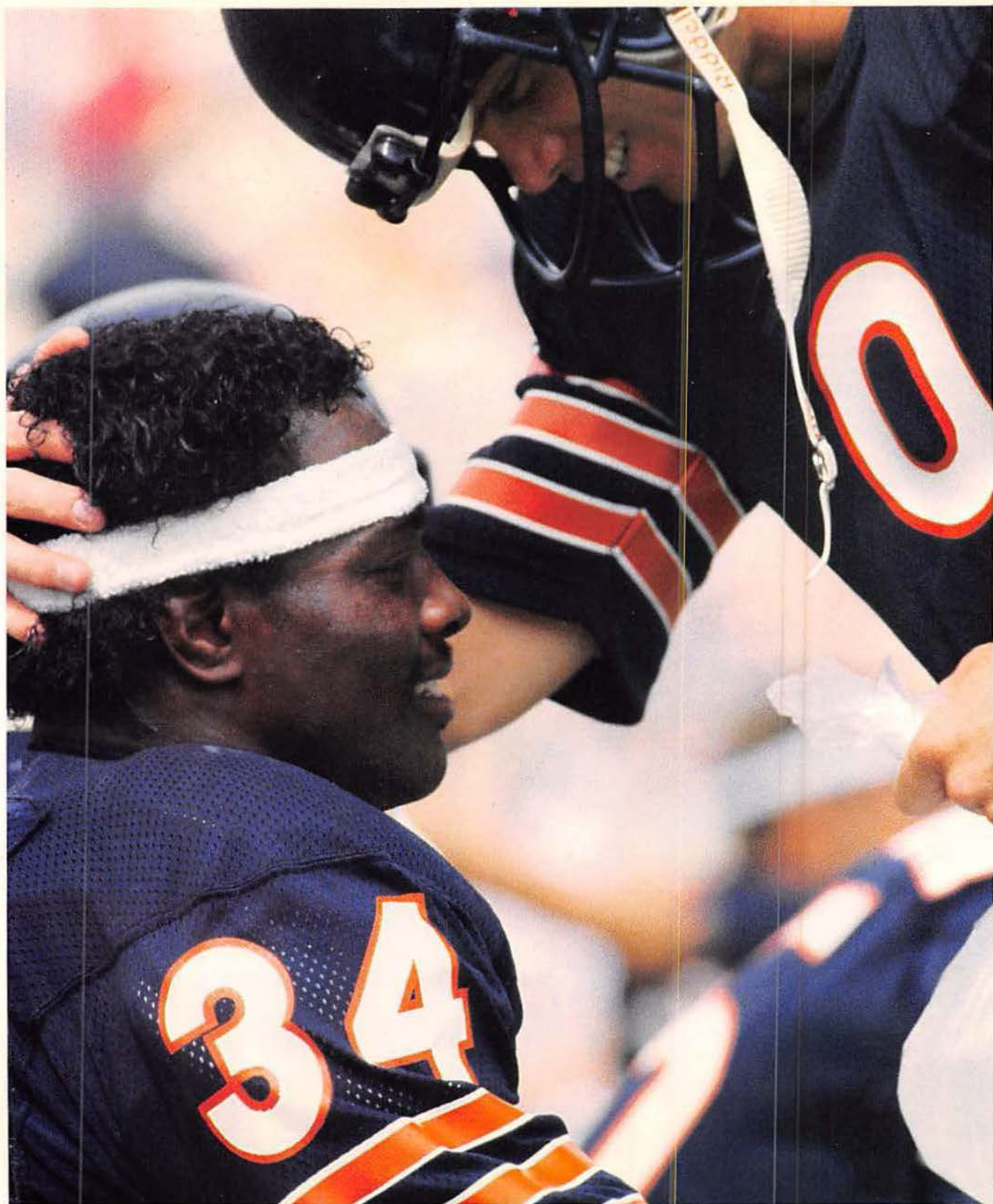


Al Messerschmidt

Was it a big thrill breaking the NFL's then-all-time record for consecutive 100-yard games with your eighth in a row [dur-

ing a 38-24 loss at Miami on December 2, 1985]?

"It didn't mean a thing. We lost."



Paul Javenski

Why do you have such good rapport with your teammates?

"A lot of times players get caught up in a fantasy world as to what they're doing, and then it gets to a point where they think the fantasy world they're living in is reality. Then they see a guy

like me and they say, 'Well, this guy has done everything,' and they see I'm down to earth. . . . I'm just like any other normal guy. . . . I like to have fun. . . . I like to kid. . . . I can talk to people. . . . I can take jokes. I just present myself as I am, the way I want to be per-

ceived, and the way I want to be treated. Deep down inside, I think every player wants to be treated the same way. I guess that's why we get along so well."

People say you're a great needler, and you admit you can take a joke. You must have a

good sense of humor.

"You've got to have that. If you don't have laughter, then your whole world is going to be gloomy. If you can't laugh at yourself and laugh at other things, then you really have no purpose in life but to be self-centered."

When the Bears defeated the Los Angeles Rams 24-0 in the 1985 NFC Championship Game at Soldier Field to earn a Super Bowl berth, how did you feel in the final minutes?

"I was just happy for everybody else. The impact or significance of the game hadn't really set in. Coach Stanfel [offensive line coach Dick Stanfel] was happy . . . I was happy . . . we were winning the game . . . the fans were cheering . . . it meant a lot to me."



Jonathan Daniel



Tony Tomasic

How was it, finally playing in Super Bowl XX against New England?

"I knew I was going to be a decoy that game, so I was ready for it because I wanted to win. Whatever I had to do to win was what I wanted to do. In this picture, I'm getting a block from one of my guys and breaking to the outside. Running the ball, it's like you're isolated . . . you're out there . . . doing your thing. It's something that you get a rush from you can't explain to anybody else. At that particular point, at that moment, I couldn't tell you what I was thinking other than, gee, I'm having a whole lot of fun."



Al Messerschmidt

How did you feel when you walked off the field, after winning the Super Bowl?

"Relieved . . . and then burdened again. I was thinking about

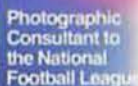
next year already, trying to repeat. That game there, and the win, really hasn't sunk in yet. But that's me. That's my nature. I figure, once I'm through playing the

game and once I'm away from it, I'll have plenty of time to sit back and enjoy a lot of things I've done, to reminisce. But right now, I'm having too much fun playing.

I can't look back. It's like doing something and not quite getting it all done. There's always something that's left out . . . always something that you have to do."

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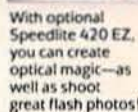
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LET'S GET IT TOGETHER & BUCKLE UP



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THE NEW PONTIAC LEMANS
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REVIEW: THE 1986 SEASON



Giants linebacker Harry Carson douses winning coach Bill Parcells in Super Bowl XXI.

A Word-and-Picture Look
From Week One
Through Super Bowl XXI
By Jim Perry

WEEK 1 Ryan's Hopes Off to a Losing Start, but He Has Company as All New Coaches Lose Openers

Since being named head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, Buddy Ryan had been about as quiet as an active volcano.

The man whose 46 defense demolished the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX planned to bring magic to the Eagles... and he wasn't afraid to tell everyone so.

"We will win the division," he said in Philadelphia, as he prepared to take on the highly competitive NFC East.

Score one for the East.

In Buddy's long-awaited coming-out party, he and the Eagles were turned upside down by the Washington Redskins, 41-14.

Ryan was just one of four NFL head coaches making their debuts on opening day. All four lost.

Against the Eagles, Washington's George Rogers ran for 104 yards and a touchdown, and former USFL star Kelvin Bryant, who al-

ternated with Rogers in the Redskins' one-back alignment, dashed 16 yards for one score and caught a 36-yard pass from quarterback Jay Schroeder for another.

The other new coaches who were treated rudely on the first day of the season were Gene Stallings of St. Louis, a 16-10 loser to the visiting Los Angeles Rams; Minnesota's Jerry Burns, whose team fell to the Detroit Lions 13-10 at the Metrodome; and New Orleans's Jim Mora, a 31-10 loser to the Atlanta Falcons at the Superdome.

Trailing 16-10, Stallings gambled and lost when he sent running back Stump Mitchell up the middle on fourth-and-two from the Rams' 4-yard line with 18 seconds left to play and the Cardinals out of time outs. Mitchell picked up a first down at the 1, but the clock expired before St. Louis could run another play.

The Rams, who have lived by the run in the

John Robinson era, did it again as Eric Dickerson gained 193 yards on a team-record 38 carries. Dickerson also scored twice. But he also fumbled three times on a drizzly day, losing the third at the Cardinals' 37-yard line to set up the St. Louis drive that almost won the game.

The Lions made a loser of Burns when full-back James Jones pounded out a career-best 174 yards against the Vikings on a team-record-tying 36 carries. He also scored Detroit's only touchdown as the Lions snapped a seven-game road losing streak.

In New Orleans, Mora and the Saints were never really in the game as Atlanta's young quarterback, Dave Archer, completed 13 of 16 passes for two touchdowns.

In Denver, quarterback John Elway, of all people, caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from running back Steve Sewell as the Broncos outlasted the Los Angeles Raiders 38-36.

In defeat, the Raiders' Marcus Allen rushed for 102 yards for an NFL-record tenth successive 100-yard game. He also gained 102 yards on pass receptions and scored twice.

In Chicago, the Browns scored the first "instant-replay touchdown" of the season, but lost to the Super Bowl-champion Bears, 41-31.

On the game's third play, Cleveland safety Al Gross recovered a bad Shotgun snap from Bears center Jay Hilgenberg in the Chicago end zone. Game officials didn't signal a touchdown until instant-replay official Nick Skorich ruled it was a score.

However, the Bears' Dennis Gentry returned the ensuing kickoff 91 yards for an answering touchdown, and the Bears were on their way.

In San Diego, the Chargers rolled up the most points ever scored against a Don Shula-coached Miami team, blistering the Dolphins 50-28.

San Diego gained 500 yards, including an uncharacteristic 224 rushing, and scored on 9 of 12 possessions.

The San Francisco 49ers got off to a fast start, intercepting a team-record seven passes from Tampa Bay quarterback Steve DeBerg to beat the Buccaneers 31-7.

Seattle, a disappointment in 1985, kicked off 1986 by throttling Pittsburgh 30-0 at the Kingdome. The Seahawks limited the Steelers to 146 yards in total offense, intercepted three passes, recovered two fumbles, and blocked a punt.

► *Denver wide receiver Vance Johnson grimaced when the Raiders' Mike Haynes strong-armed him. But Johnson caught four passes as the Broncos outlasted Los Angeles 38-36 in Denver.*

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Ken O'Brien



Billy Ray Smith



James Jones



Dave Butz

AFC OFFENSE—Ken O'Brien, quarterback, New York Jets

O'Brien won a passing duel with Buffalo's Jim Kelly as he completed 18 of 25 passes for 318 yards, two touchdowns, and no interceptions in the visiting Jets' 28-24 victory over the Bills.

AFC DEFENSE—Billy Ray Smith, linebacker, San Diego Chargers

Smith, who was shifted from inside to outside linebacker this year, made 11 tackles, including two sacks of Dan Marino, forced two fumbles, and broke up two passes as San Diego pounded Miami 50-28.

NFC OFFENSE—James Jones, fullback, Detroit Lions

Jones tied a Lions record by carrying 36 times for a career-high 174 yards as he led Detroit to a 13-10 victory at Minnesota. He scored the Lions' only touchdown on a two-yard dive and helped Detroit maintain ball possession for nearly 38 minutes.

NFC DEFENSE—Dave Butz, defensive tackle, Washington Redskins

Butz got two sacks to lead a fierce Redskins pass rush that sacked Eagles quarterbacks six times in Washington's 41-14 victory over visiting Philadelphia.

STANDINGS

AFC East
New England 1 0 0
N.Y. Jets 1 0 0
Buffalo 0 1 0
Indianapolis 0 1 0
Miami 0 1 0

AFC Central
Houston 1 0 0
Cincinnati 0 1 0
Cleveland 0 1 0
Pittsburgh 0 1 0

AFC West
Denver 1 0 0
Kansas City 1 0 0
San Diego 1 0 0
Seattle 1 0 0
L.A. Raiders 0 1 0

NFC East
Dallas 1 0 0
Washington 1 0 0
N.Y. Giants 0 1 0
Philadelphia 0 1 0
St. Louis 0 1 0

NFC Central
Chicago 1 0 0
Detroit 1 0 0
Green Bay 0 1 0
Minnesota 0 1 0
Tampa Bay 0 1 0

NFC West
Atlanta 1 0 0
L.A. Rams 1 0 0
San Francisco 1 0 0
New Orleans 0 1 0

SCORES

AFC
Denver 38, L.A. Raiders 36
Kansas City 24, Cincinnati 14
New England 33, Indianapolis 3
N.Y. Jets 28, Buffalo 24
San Diego 50, Miami 28
Seattle 30, Pittsburgh 0

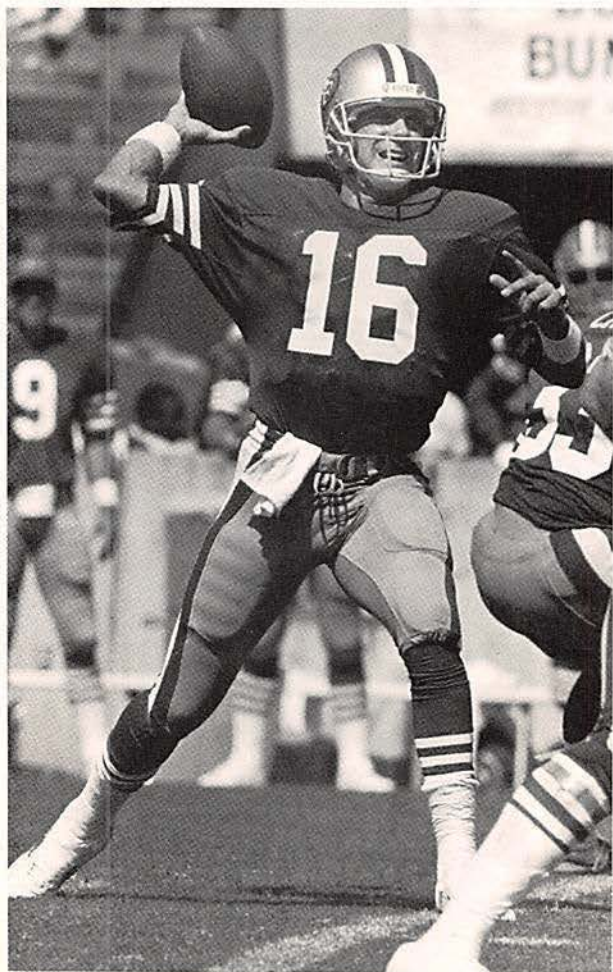
NFC
Atlanta 31, New Orleans 10
Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 28
Detroit 13, Minnesota 10
L.A. Rams 16, St. Louis 10
San Francisco 31, Tampa Bay 7
Washington 41, Philadelphia 14

Interconference
Chicago 41, Cleveland 31
Houston 31, Green Bay 3



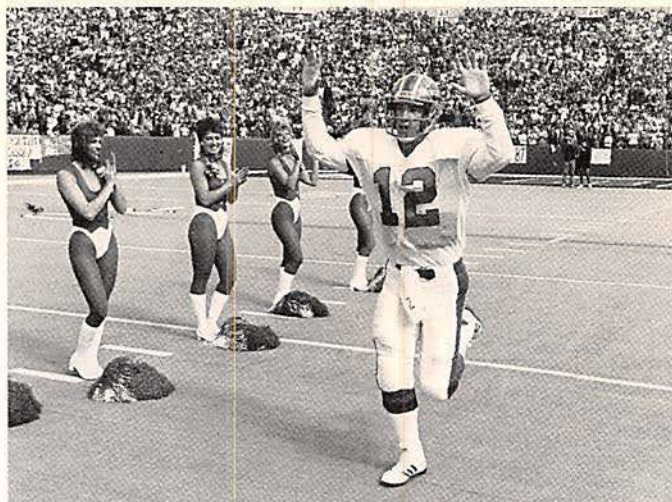
Chargers Sail past Miami, Kelly's Debut Attracts a Record Crowd, and Walker Frustrates the Giants in His First NFL Game

▼ Before injuring his back, Joe Montana completed 32 of 46 passes for 356 yards as San Francisco defeated host Tampa Bay 31-7.



The Allen's Studio

► Jeff Smith rushed to the Chiefs' rescue by gaining 43 yards on the ground and catching a touchdown pass as Kansas City beat Cincinnati 24-13.



Robert L. Smith

▲ The biggest crowd in Rich Stadium history — 79,951 — cheered new Bills hero Jim Kelly, who passed for 292 yards and three touchdowns in a 28-24 loss to the Jets.



Jon Hayt

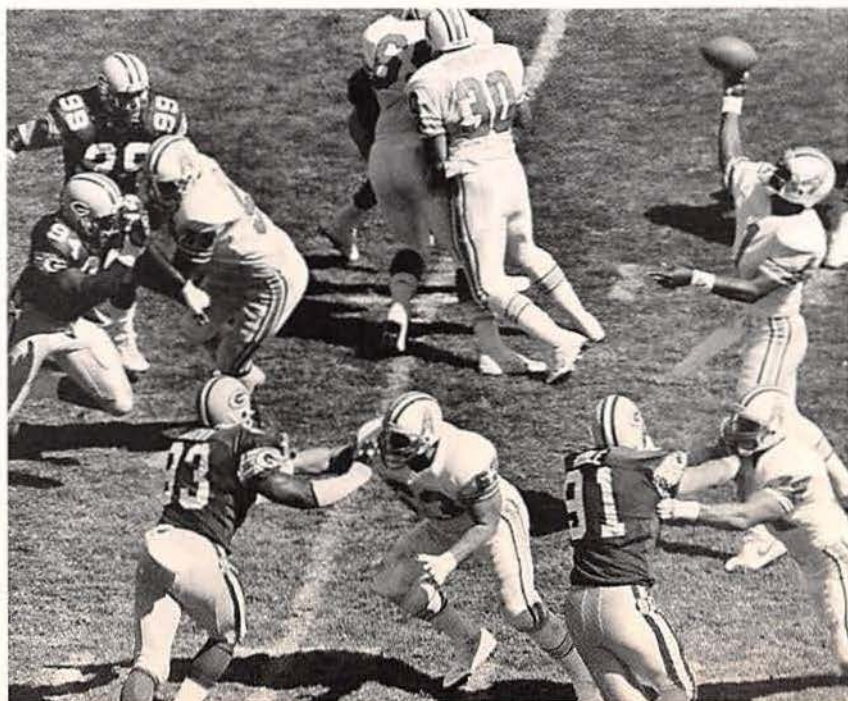
▲ The Chargers got off to a flying start thanks to Gary Anderson, who sailed into the end zone to complete a spectacular 18-yard play during a 50-28 victory over Miami.



Hank Young



▼ Warren Moon (1) benefitted from good protection as he completed 14 of 21 passes for 218 yards in Houston's 31-3 victory at Green Bay. Moon threw 29- and 44-yard scoring passes to Butch Woolfolk and Drew Hill.



▲ Herschel Walker scored his first NFL touchdown on a 1-yard dive, then scored the game winner with 1:16 to play as Dallas came back to beat the visiting New York Giants 31-28.



▲ Gary Clark was too much for Philadelphia to handle, catching seven passes for 100 yards in Washington's 41-14 defeat of the Eagles. The Redskins piled up 433 total yards.

WEEK 2 A New Side to the Coin Flip as Two 'Winners'—Bills and Eagles—Lose in Overtime

Since the first team to score in overtime wins, the winner of the coin toss has a big advantage, right?

Depends on what they do with the ball.

Both the Bills and Eagles got the ball first in overtime against the host Bengals and Bears, and both allowed it—and the game—to slip right through their hands.

Buffalo's Jim Kelly, who had been off to a fast start in his first NFL season, threw an interception on the first play of overtime to Cincinnati linebacker Carl Zander. Zander's 18-yard return to the Bills' 17 set up Jim Breech's game-winning, 20-yard field goal as the Bengals won 36-33.

Earlier in the game, Breech had kicked a 51-yard field goal as Cincinnati rallied from a 33-23 fourth-quarter deficit, built partly by Kelly's 84-yard touchdown pass to second-year wide receiver Chris Burckett.

The Eagles turned the ball over even more quickly in the Buddy Bowl, the long-awaited matchup between new Philadelphia coach and old Chicago defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan and his ex-boss, Mike Ditka of the Super Bowl-champion Bears. With the teams tied at 10, the Eagles' Charles Crawford fumbled the overtime kickoff, and Chicago's Vestee Jackson pounced on the ball on the Philadelphia 35.

The Bears worked the ball to the Eagles' 6-yard line on six rushes by Walter Payton, who ran for 177 yards, then Kevin Butler kicked a 23-yard field goal to keep the Bears unbeaten.

New England, the Bears' opponent in Super Bowl XX, won for the second consecutive week, stifling the Jets 20-6 on Thursday night. The visiting Patriots held New York to two field goals, sacking Ken O'Brien four times, and after two games New England's

defense still had not allowed a touchdown.

Wide receiver Stanley Morgan caught eight passes for New England, giving him 15 in two weeks. The Jets lost not only the game, but also star runner Freeman McNeil for several weeks with a dislocated elbow.

The other New York team was most impressive in dominating the Chargers 20-7 at the Meadowlands. The Giants controlled the ball for nearly 40 minutes, forcing seven San Diego turnovers, including five interceptions of Dan Fouts.

The turnovers, including two thefts each by safeties Terry Kinard and Kenny Hill, set up 17 points.

Miami, which lost to the Chargers 50-28 in week 1, rebounded to defeat the Colts for the twelfth consecutive time, 30-10. The host Dolphins got two touchdowns from Lorenzo Hampton and one on a 71-yard punt return by rookie James Pruitt.

Miami sacked Indianapolis quarterbacks seven times, including starter Gary Hogeboom, who sustained a separated shoulder on, of all things, a 50-yard run with a fumble.

Tony Dorsett of Dallas, who sprained an ankle the previous game and spent part of the week on crutches, threw away the sticks and rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown in the Cowboys' 31-7 victory over Detroit.

Another tough running back is the Raiders' Marcus Allen, who stretched his record streak of consecutive 100-yard rushing games to 11 with 104. But Allen's magic wasn't enough as the visiting Raiders lost to Washington 10-6 to begin the season 0-2 for the first time since 1964.

Los Angeles led 6-3 in the fourth quarter, but the Redskins' Jay Schroeder fired a 59-yard pass to tight end Clint Didier to set up George Rogers's game-winning 3-yard touchdown run with 7:27 left.

Denver won its second consecutive game as John Elway passed for 243 yards and three touchdowns in a 21-10 win at Pittsburgh.

Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent caught five passes to run his reception streak to 125 consecutive games as the host Seahawks kept pace with Denver by defeating Kansas City 23-17.

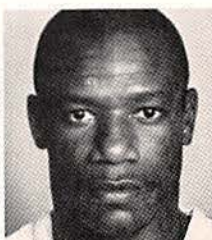
And two new head coaches won their first games. Minnesota, under Jerry Burns, defeated frustrated Tampa Bay 23-10 at Tampa, and Jim Mora's New Orleans Saints dominated the visiting Packers 24-10, intercepting a team-record seven passes.

► **Quarterback Mike Tomczak signaled the score as the Bears' Walter Payton dove into the end zone for his 100th career touchdown. Chicago sneaked past the Eagles 13-10 in overtime.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Boomer Esiason



Hanford Dixon



Walter Payton



Terry Kinard

AFC OFFENSE — Boomer Esiason, quarterback, Cincinnati Bengals

Esiason threw two touchdown passes and led a 74-yard, last-minute drive for the tying touchdown which he scored on a 2-yard run with 22 seconds left in regulation as the host Bengals beat Buffalo 36-33 in overtime.

AFC DEFENSE — Hanford Dixon, cornerback, Cleveland Browns

Dixon intercepted a pass, recovered a fumble, and made six tackles (five solo) in Cleveland's come-from-behind, 23-20 victory at Houston.

NFC OFFENSE — Walter Payton, running back, Chicago Bears

Payton rushed for 177 yards to run his NFL-leading, two-week total to 290 in the host Bears' 13-10 overtime win over Philadelphia. It was his seventy-fifth 100-yard game, an ongoing NFL record. He also scored his 100th rushing touchdown and increased his career rushing total to more than 15,000 yards.

NFC DEFENSE — Terry Kinard, safety, New York Giants

Kinard intercepted two passes, setting up a field goal with one, recovered a fumble to set up a touchdown, broke up three passes, and made six tackles as the Giants throttled Dan Fouts and the San Diego Chargers 20-7.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	2	0	0
Miami	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0
Buffalo	0	2	0
Indianapolis	0	2	0

AFC Central

Cincinnati	1	1	0
Cleveland	1	1	0
Houston	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	2	0

AFC West

Denver	2	0	0
Seattle	2	0	0
Kansas City	1	1	0
San Diego	1	1	0
L.A. Raiders	0	2	0

NFC East

Dallas	2	0	0
Washington	2	0	0
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0
Philadelphia	0	2	0
St. Louis	0	2	0

NFC Central

Chicago	2	0	0
Detroit	1	1	0
Minnesota	1	1	0
Green Bay	0	2	0
Tampa Bay	0	2	0

NFC West

Atlanta	2	0	0
L.A. Rams	2	0	0
New Orleans	1	1	0
San Francisco	1	1	0

Scores

AFC

Cincinnati 36, Buffalo 33 (OT)
Cleveland 23, Houston 20
Denver 21, Pittsburgh 10
Miami 30, Indianapolis 10
New England 20, N.Y. Jets 6
Seattle 23, Kansas City 17

NFC

Atlanta 33, St. Louis 13
Chicago 13, Philadelphia 10 (OT)
Dallas 31, Detroit 7
L.A. Rams 16, San Francisco 13
Minnesota 23, Tampa Bay 10
New Orleans 24, Green Bay 10

Interconference

N.Y. Giants 20, San Diego 7
Washington 10, L.A. Raiders 6



Rams Get the Jump on 49ers, Dorsett Shrugs Off an Injury, and Not Even Marcus Allen Can Save the Raiders



Dave Cross

▲ Rookie wide receiver James Pruitt scored on a 71-yard punt return to send Miami on its way to a 30-10 victory over Indianapolis.

► Wide receiver Cris Collinsworth helped Cincinnati catch up to Buffalo with a critical 46-yard reception. The Bengals won in overtime, 36-33.

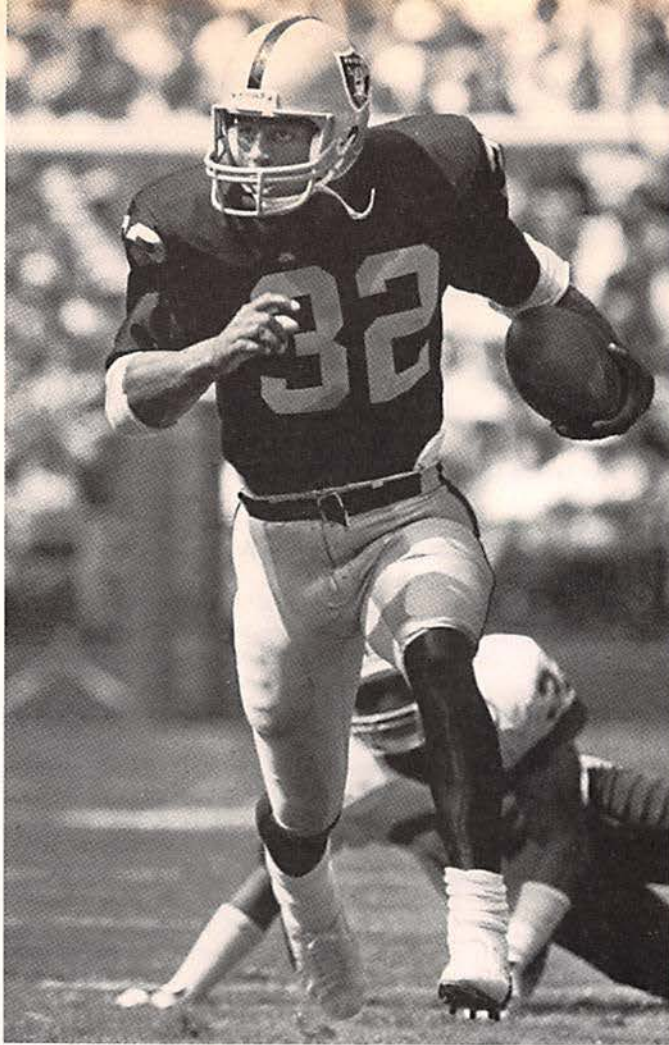


George Robarge

▲ Two of the NFL's elite — Rams running back Eric Dickerson and 49ers safety Ronnie Lott — met head-on during the Rams' 16-13 victory at Anaheim Stadium. Dickerson picked up 78 yards on 19 carries.

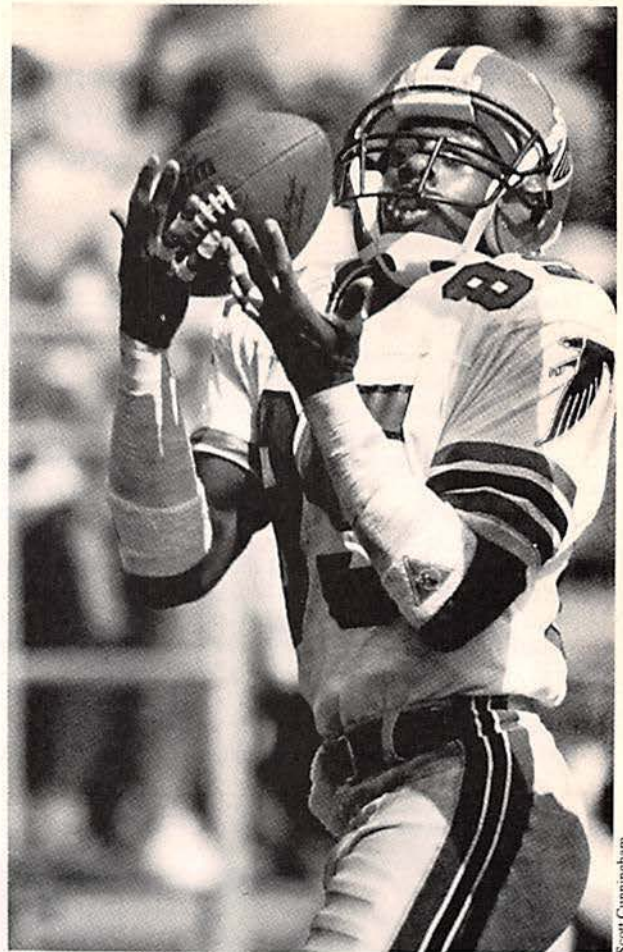


Larry Fullerton



Greg Cava

▲ Marcus Allen was in normal form as he ran for 104 yards, his eleventh consecutive 100-yard rushing game, but the Raiders fell to 0-2 with a 10-6 loss at Washington.



Scott Cunningham

▲ Anthony Allen caught a 22-yard touchdown pass to help the Falcons beat St. Louis 33-13 before their biggest home crowd in two years (46,463).



Pete J. Groh



John Sandhaus

▲ Craig James (32) showed the Jets his all-purpose skills by rushing for 63 yards and throwing a touchdown pass in New England's 20-6 victory.

▲ Not even a sprained ankle could stop Cowboys star Tony Dorsett, who discarded his crutches and rushed for 117 yards as Dallas beat Detroit 31-7.

WEEK 3 In a Return to the Olden Days, Jets Outshoot the Dolphins in a High-Scoring Comeback

For one Sunday, it was the early 1960s all over again.

In action reminiscent of the early pass-and-catch days of the old American Football League, the Jets, Seahawks, Falcons, and Redskins all came from behind to pull out high-scoring games either in overtime or in the last seconds of regulation play.

Simply stated, it was not a good day to play pass defense.

The wildest of the wild took place in New Jersey, where, in overtime, Ken O'Brien threw his fourth touchdown pass of the afternoon, a 43-yard shot to Wesley Walker, to vault the New York Jets past Miami 51-45.

Walker also had scoring receptions of 65, 50, and 21 yards, the latter on the last play of regulation to tie the game at 45-45 and send it into overtime.

O'Brien had to be on target to overcome the

Dolphins' Dan Marino, who tied Bob Griese's club record with six touchdown passes of his own. Marino completed 30 of 50 passes for 448 yards, and his top receivers included Mark Clayton (eight catches for 174 yards, one touchdown) and Mark Duper (seven for 154, two).

There also was a lot of commotion in Foxboro, Massachusetts, where the New England Patriots allowed their first touchdown of the year—and then some. In a battle of unbeaten teams, Seattle stayed that way with 17 points in a 1:39 stretch late in the fourth quarter for a 38-31 victory.

Ray Butler, cut last season by the Indianapolis Colts, caught a 67-yard touchdown pass from Dave Krieg with 1:14 left in the game to cap the rally. Earlier, Butler caught a 54-yard scoring pass.

At Dallas, Danny White played despite a

pulled thigh muscle and threw four touchdown passes for the Cowboys, the final one giving his team a 35-27 lead with 9:05 left.

But Atlanta's Gerald Riggs, who rushed for 109 yards, scored from the 2-yard line with 3:28 left to trim the lead to 35-34. Then young Dave Archer lofted a 65-yard bomb to rookie wide receiver Floyd Dixon with 28 seconds left to set the Falcons up on the Cowboys' 2-yard line again.

Mick Luckhurst kicked an 18-yard field goal with 20 seconds to play, his third field goal of the day, and Atlanta won 37-35 to start the season 3-0.

In San Diego, the Chargers had a 21-3 lead over Washington in the second quarter and still were holding on to a 27-23 advantage with less than two minutes to play.

But Jay Schroeder of the Redskins fired a 55-yard completion to wide receiver Gary Clark, who reached the San Diego 14. On the next play, Schroeder and Clark teamed again for the winning touchdown, 30-27.

In Los Angeles, one streak ended and another stayed alive, but both were bad news for the Raiders.

Marcus Allen, who left the game in the third quarter with a sprained ankle, gained only 40 yards on 15 carries to have his NFL-record streak of 100-yard rushing games snapped at 11.

The Raiders' losing streak reached three, as they fell to the New York Giants 14-9. The Giants' Phil Simms threw a pair of scoring passes to wide receiver Lionel Manuel, and Joe Morris ran for 110 yards, setting up a touchdown with a 52-yard gain.

Another hot quarterback was San Francisco's Jeff Kemp, who led the 49ers past visiting New Orleans 26-17 in his second start for Joe Montana, who had back surgery after the second game.

Kemp passed for 332 yards, hitting eight third-down passes for seven first downs and a touchdown. Ray Wersching chipped in with four field goals.

Denver literally ran its record to 3-0 and kept host Philadelphia winless with a 33-7 victory, built on a 203-yard rushing attack. Sammy Winder got 104 of that total, and Gerald Willhite added 91.

The Rams also stretched their record to 3-0 with a 24-7 victory at Indianapolis, built largely on 121 yards rushing by Eric Dickerson and an 18-of-26 passing day by Steve Bartkowski.

►Quarterback Dave Archer kept Atlanta (3-0) unbeaten with a 65-yard pass to rookie Floyd Dixon. The pass came with 28 seconds left and set up the winning field goal in a 37-35 upset of Dallas.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Wesley Walker

Art Still

Dave Archer

Mel Owens

AFC OFFENSE—Ken O'Brien, quarterback, and Wesley Walker, wide receiver, New York Jets
O'Brien threw four touchdown passes, all to Walker, as the two rallied the Jets to a 51-45 overtime victory over Miami. O'Brien passed for 479 yards, his career high, completing 29 of 43 with just one interception.

AFC DEFENSE—Art Still, defensive end, Kansas City Chiefs

Still made seven solo tackles, including two sacks of Warren Moon, assisted on two other tackles, deflected a pass, and forced a fumble to set up a field goal as the host Chiefs defeated Houston 27-13.

NFC OFFENSE—Dave Archer, quarterback, Atlanta Falcons

Archer led unbeaten Atlanta past Dallas by throwing a 65-yard, last-minute pass to wide receiver Floyd Dixon to set up the winning field goal with 20 seconds left in the Falcons' 37-35 win at Dallas. He completed 15 of 29 passes, with no interceptions, for 269 yards and a touchdown, and ran six times for 45 yards.

NFC DEFENSE—Mel Owens, linebacker, Los Angeles Rams

Owens had two of the Rams' seven sacks of Indianapolis quarterbacks Jack Trudeau and Blair Kiel in the team's 24-7 victory at Indianapolis.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	2	1	0
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0
Buffalo	1	2	0
Miami	1	2	0
Indianapolis	0	3	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cincinnati	2	1	0
Cleveland	1	2	0
Houston	1	2	0
Pittsburgh	0	3	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	3	0	0
Seattle	3	0	0
Kansas City	2	1	0
San Diego	1	2	0
L.A. Raiders	0	3	0

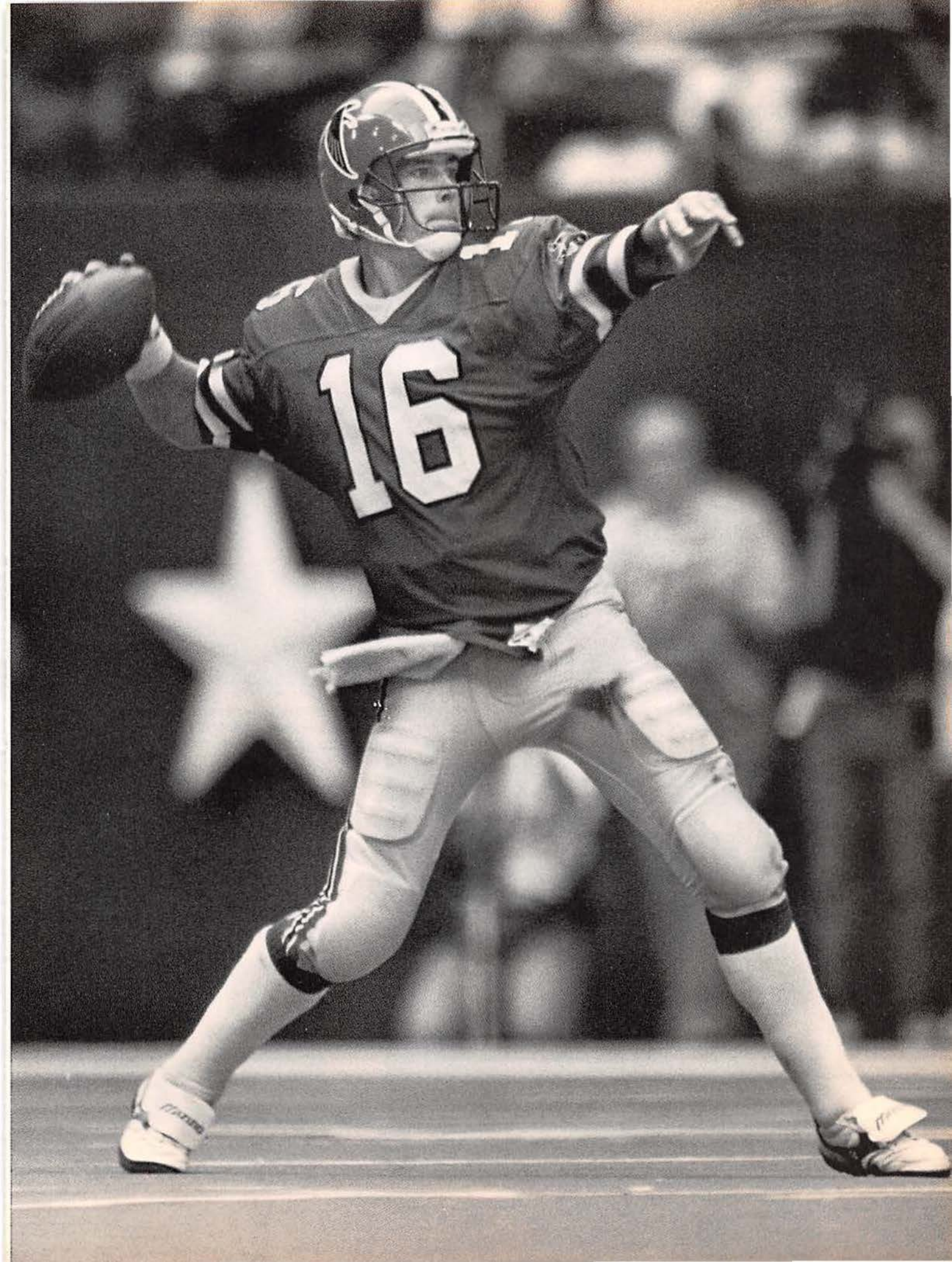
NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	3	0	0
Dallas	2	1	0
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0
Philadelphia	0	3	0
St. Louis	0	3	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	3	0	0
Minnesota	2	1	0
Detroit	1	2	0
Tampa Bay	1	2	0
Green Bay	0	3	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	3	0	0
L.A. Rams	3	0	0
San Francisco	2	1	0
New Orleans	1	2	0

SCORES

AFC	SCORE
Cincinnati 30, Cleveland 13	
Kansas City 27, Houston 13	
N.Y. Jets 51, Miami 45 (OT)	
Seattle 38, New England 31	
NFC	SCORE
Atlanta 37, Dallas 35	
Chicago 25, Green Bay 12	
San Francisco 26, New Orleans 17	
Tampa Bay 24, Detroit 20	
Interconference	SCORE
Buffalo 17, St. Louis 10	
Denver 33, Philadelphia 7	
L.A. Rams 24, Indianapolis 7	
Minnesota 31, Pittsburgh 7	
N.Y. Giants 14, L.A. Raiders 9	
Washington 30, San Diego 27	

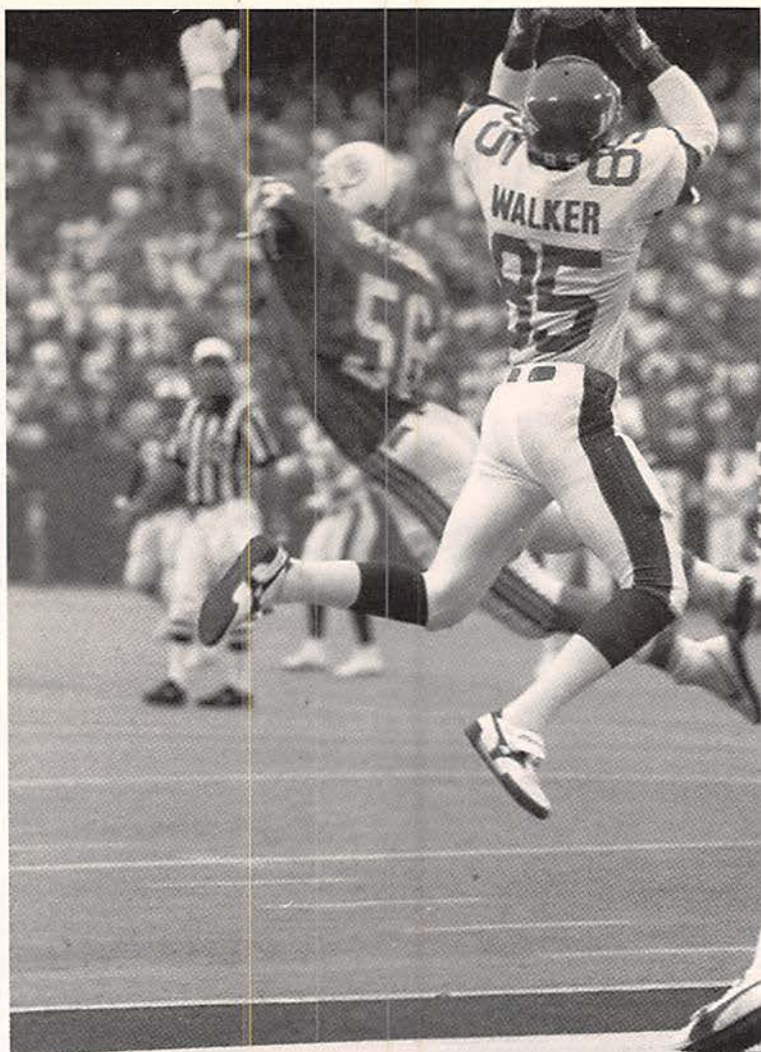


Jets and Dolphins Score 96 Points, Bengals Run Over Browns, and Butler's Late Magic Shocks Patriots



Robert L. Smith

▲ "It's back to that old feeling of winning again," said Buffalo's Jim Kelly, who completed just 6 of 10 passes during a 17-10 victory over St. Louis.

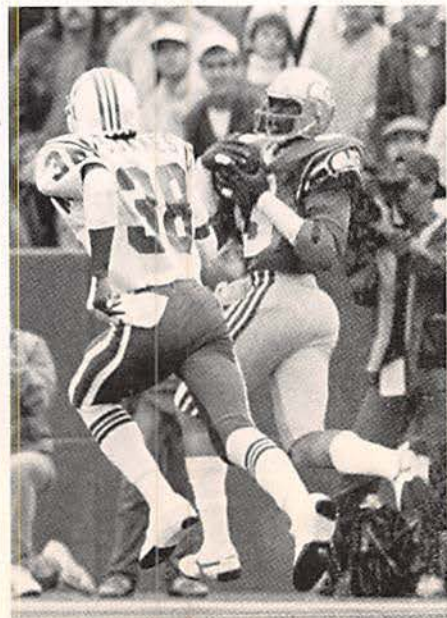


▲ Wesley Walker had a day to remember against Miami. He caught the tying touchdown pass as time ran out, then scored the game winner in overtime as New York won 51-45.



Pete J. Groh

▲ Powerful fullback Larry Kinnebrew rushed for 94 yards and three touchdowns to lead a ground attack that gained 257 yards as visiting Cincinnati defeated rival Cleveland 30-13.



Thomas J. Croke

▲ Seattle rallied to beat New England 38-31 when Ray Butler caught a late 67-yard touchdown pass.

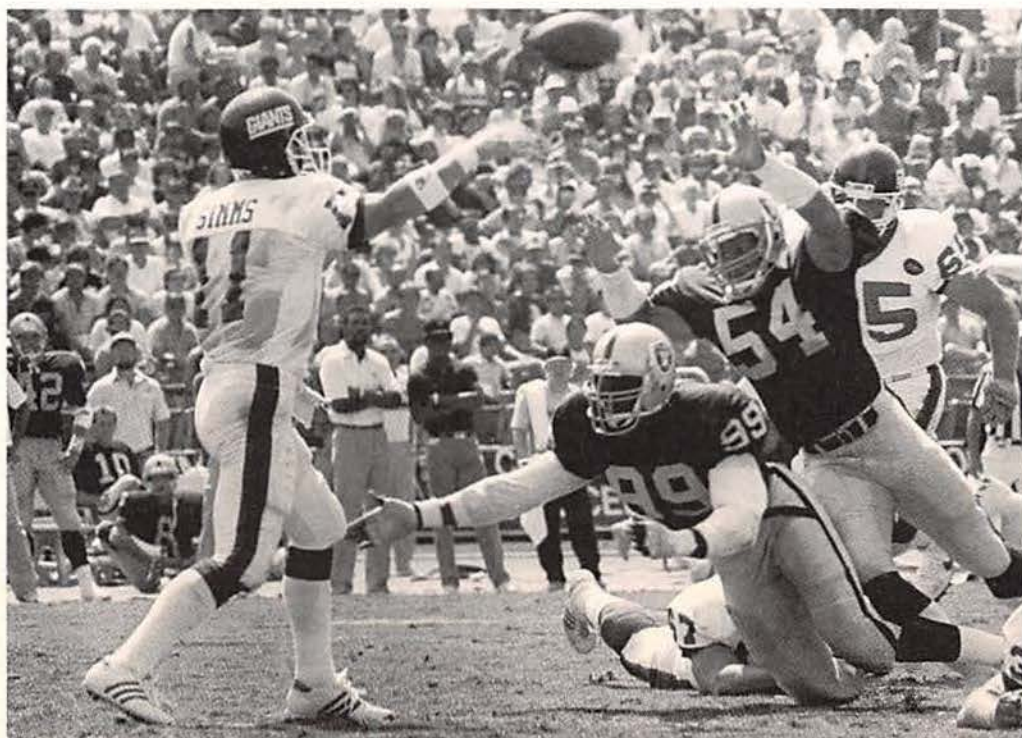


Paul A. Spinelli



Richard B. Gentile

▲ Denver's Sammy Winder scored the second of his two touchdowns on a 17-yard burst during the third quarter of the visiting Broncos' 33-7 victory over Philadelphia. Winder finished with 104 yards on 20 carries.



Miguel Elliot

◀ Standing cool under pressure, Giants quarterback Phil Simms passed for 239 yards and two touchdowns to help keep the host Raiders winless, for the third straight game, 14-9.

WEEK 4 McMahon Returns to Turn Bears Back Into Ferocious Beasts in 44-7 Mauling of Bengals

After terrorizing the NFL in 1985, the Chicago Bears came out of the gate with three victories in a row to begin the 1986 season.

But they struggled in all three, and in the last two, playing without injured quarterback Jim McMahon, they huffed and puffed to score a total of 38 points.

Unfortunately for Cincinnati, McMahon came back.

The Bears' leader, playing with specially designed shoulder pads to protect his injured throwing shoulder, fired three touchdown passes and ran for another as Chicago took a 21-0 first-quarter lead and demolished the Bengals 44-7 for its fourth consecutive victory.

Two other NFC teams, Atlanta and Washington, and one AFC team, Denver, also remained unbeaten after four weeks.

The surprising Falcons won their sixth suc-

cessive regular-season game, dating back to last year, as they rallied to win for the second week in a row.

This time the victim was Tampa Bay, 23-20, and the architect of the overtime victory again was third-year quarterback Dave Archer.

Behind 20-17 with time running out, the Falcons faced a fourth-and-2 situation on the Buccaneers' 38, but Archer eluded four tacklers to complete a 15-yard pass to Sylvester Stamps and set up placekicker Mick Luckhurst's game-tying 34-yard field goal in the final seconds of regulation.

Luckhurst won the game with another 34-yard kick, 12:25 into overtime.

The Redskins outscored another unbeaten team, Seattle, winning 19-14 on the running of George Rogers and the passing of Jay Schroeder, who now has nine victories and only one defeat since taking over as Washing-

ton's starting quarterback when Joe Theismann went down with a broken leg in 1985.

Rogers pounded out 115 yards, including 24- and 7-yard scoring runs, and Schroeder completed 14 of 26 passes. Washington's designated long-distance field-goal specialist, Steve Cox, kicked a team-record 57-yarder at the end of the first half to give the Redskins the lead for good.

In defeat, Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent caught three passes (one for a touchdown) to tie Harold Carmichael's NFL consecutive-game reception streak at 127.

Denver, the fourth unbeaten team, had to survive a terrible first half when the Broncos had the ball for just nine minutes and trailed New England 13-3 at Denver.

But John Elway, who completed 6 of 18 passes in the first half, was 11 for 15 in the second, directing three touchdown drives in the 27-20 victory. The Broncos scored 24 points in a row to take command.

In Philadelphia, Buddy Ryan got his first victory as Eagles coach as his team jumped off to a 34-0 lead on the previously unbeaten Los Angeles Rams and coasted in 34-20.

Ron Jaworski led the Eagles' charge, passing for three touchdowns and pitching out to running back Keith Byars, who threw a fourth touchdown pass—55 yards to Mike Quick.

The 49ers continued their fast start by defeating staggering Miami 31-16.

Jeff Kemp threw 18- and 50-yard touchdown passes to Jerry Rice to lead San Francisco. Miami's Dan Marino was intercepted four times, booed by the hometown fans, and finally replaced by Don Strock late in the game.

Both of New York's teams won to run their records to 3-1.

The Jets downed Indianapolis 26-7 at the Hoosier Dome as Pat Leahy kicked four field goals to run his success streak to 19 in a row.

The Giants overcame a 17-0 New Orleans lead to win 20-17 on the passing of Phil Simms, who completed 24 of 41 for 286 yards and two touchdowns, including the 4-yard game-winner to tight end Zeke Mowatt with 8:03 left at the Meadowlands.

In St. Louis, the Dallas Cowboys played without injured Tony Dorsett, but Herschel Walker made his first start and rushed for 82 yards and caught five passes for 57 more. One reception was good for an eight-yard touchdown. Danny White threw three touchdown passes as the Cowboys won 31-7 on Monday night.

► *Acrobatic Randall Cunningham (12) and Ron Jaworski shared the quarterback job as the Eagles scored their first victory of the season, upsetting the unbeaten Los Angeles Rams 34-20 in Philadelphia.*

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Marc Wilson



Karl Mecklenburg



Tommy Kramer



Ronnie Lott

AFC OFFENSE—Marc Wilson, quarterback, Los Angeles Raiders

Wilson rallied the Raiders to their first victory, a 17-13 defeat of the visiting San Diego Chargers. Despite being sacked eight times, he bounced up to complete 19 of 28 passes for 314 yards and two touchdowns.

AFC DEFENSE—Karl Mecklenburg, linebacker, Denver Broncos

Mecklenburg made 13 tackles, 10 of them solo, and had 2½ sacks, as he led a fierce Denver defense that shut out New England for 29:59 of the second half in the Broncos' 27-20, come-from-behind victory.

NFC OFFENSE—Tommy Kramer, quarterback, Minnesota Vikings

Kramer threw a career-high six touchdown passes, four in the first quarter, as he led the Vikings to their third victory in four weeks, 42-7 over Green Bay. He completed 16 of 25 for 241 yards, with no interceptions. Two of Kramer's scoring passes went to tight end Steve Jordan, and two went to rookie wide receiver Hassan Jones.

NFC DEFENSE—Ronnie Lott, safety, San Francisco 49ers

Lott made five tackles and intercepted two passes, lateralizing one to fellow safety Tom Holmoe, who returned it 66 yards for a touchdown in the 49ers' 31-16 victory at Miami.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	3	1	0
New England	2	2	0
Buffalo	1	3	0
Miami	1	3	0
Indianapolis	0	4	0

AFC Central

Cincinnati	2	2	0
Cleveland	2	2	0
Houston	1	3	0
Pittsburgh	1	3	0

AFC West

Denver	4	0	0
Kansas City	3	1	0
Seattle	3	1	0
L.A. Raiders	1	3	0
San Diego	1	3	0

NFC East

Washington	4	0	0
Dallas	3	1	0
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0
Philadelphia	1	3	0
St. Louis	0	4	0

NFC Central

Chicago	4	0	0
Minnesota	3	1	0
Detroit	1	3	0
Tampa Bay	1	3	0
Green Bay	0	4	0

NFC West

Atlanta	4	0	0
L.A. Rams	3	1	0
San Francisco	3	1	0
New Orleans	1	3	0

SCORES

AFC

Denver 27, New England 20
Kansas City 20, Buffalo 17
L.A. Raiders 17, San Diego 13
N.Y. Jets 26, Indianapolis 7
Pittsburgh 22, Houston 16 (OT)

NFC

Atlanta 23, Tampa Bay 20 (OT)
Dallas 31, St. Louis 7
Minnesota 42, Green Bay 7
N.Y. Giants 20, New Orleans 17
Philadelphia 34, L.A. Rams 20

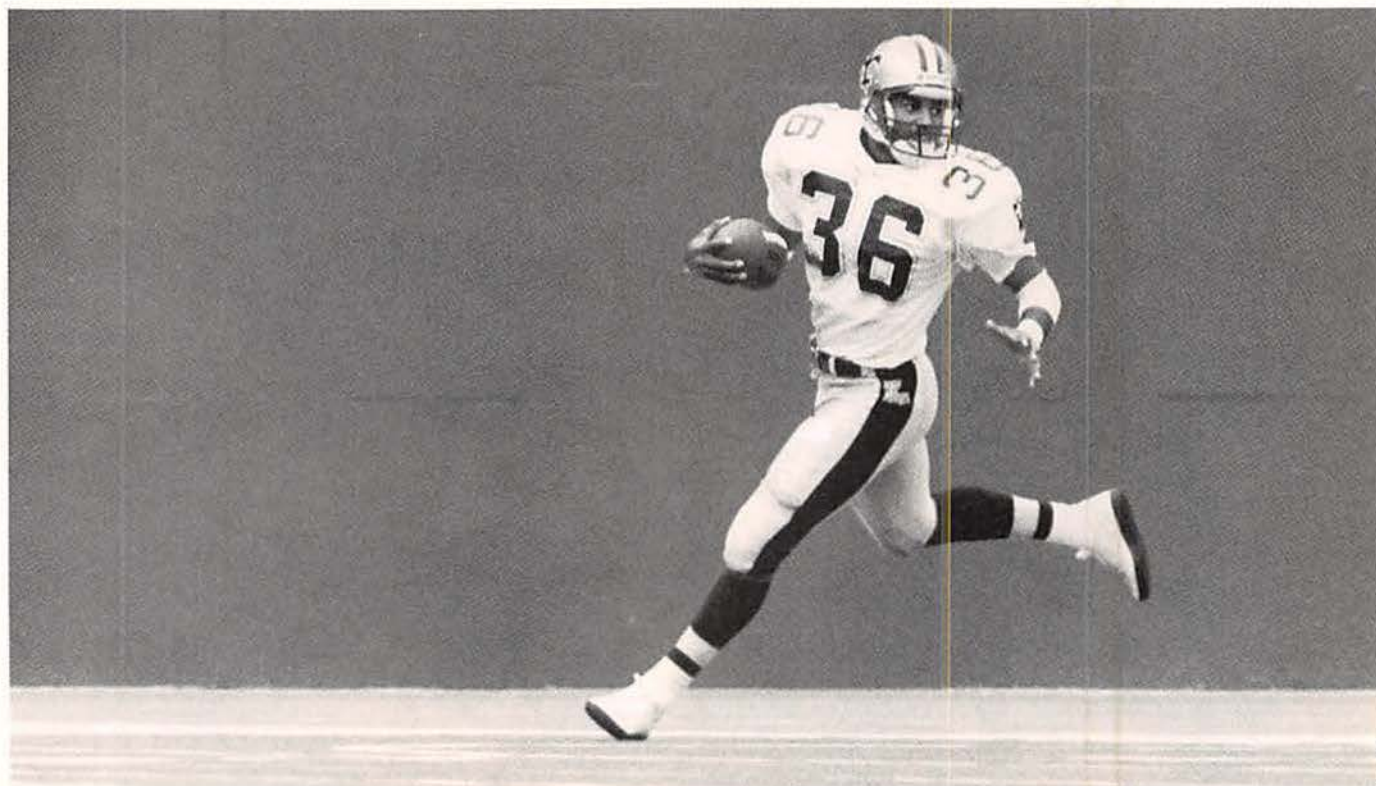
Interconference

Chicago 44, Cincinnati 7
Cleveland 24, Detroit 21
San Francisco 31, Miami 16
Washington 19, Seattle 14



Atlanta (of All Teams) Stays Unbeaten, McNeil Chills Detroit, and 49ers Secondary Scores With a Little Teamwork

► Three weeks after kicking a club-record 55-yard field goal, Washington's Steve Cox broke his own mark with a 57-yard kick as the Redskins held off Seattle for a 19-14 victory in a battle of unbeaten teams at RFK Stadium. Cox also had a 58-yard punt in the game.



Tim Alexander

▲ New Orleans rookie Rueben Mayes returned the second-half kickoff 100 yards for an apparent touchdown, only to have it called back. The Giants won, 20-17.



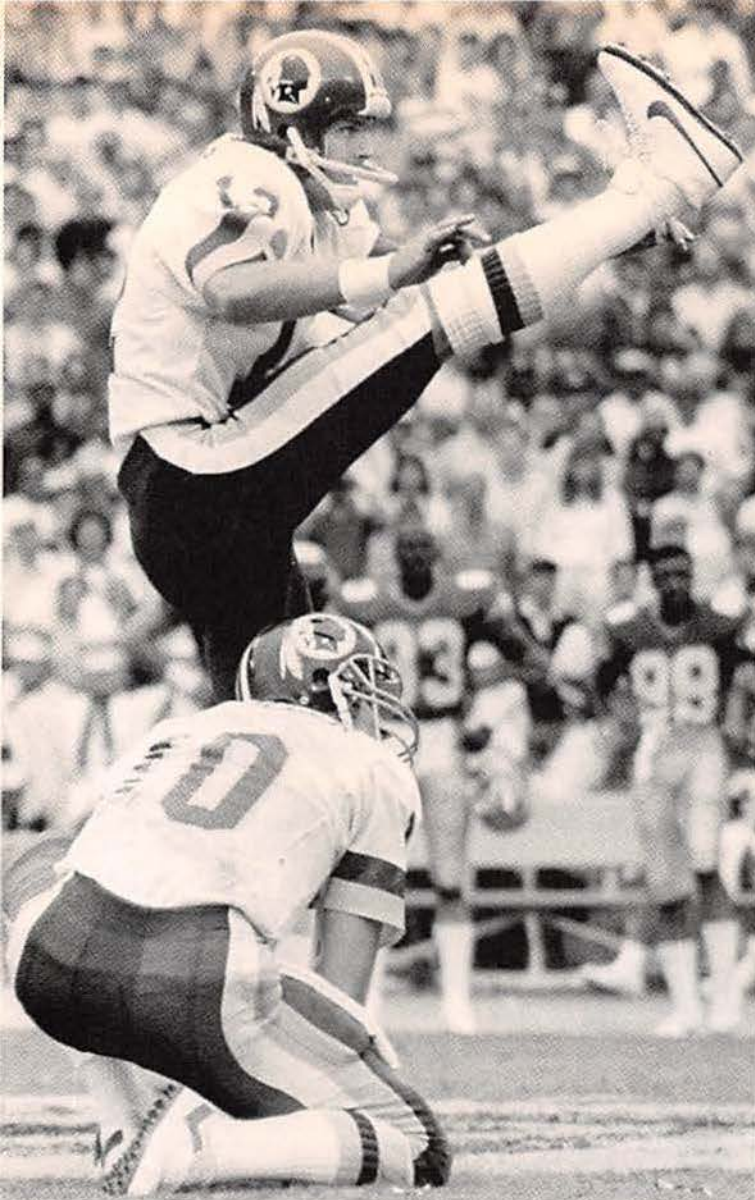
Bob Rosato

▲ Safety Tom Holmoe (46) clinched San Francisco's 31-16 victory at Miami when he took a lateral from Ronnie Lott (42) and raced 66 yards for a touchdown.

▼ Rookie Napoleon McCallum (34), subbing for an injured Marcus Allen, rushed for 57 yards as the Raiders beat San Diego 17-13 for their first victory of the season.



Miguel Elliot



Nate Frie Productions

▼ Pittsburgh running back Walter Abercrombie rushed for 73 yards and added the game-winning touchdown early in overtime as the Steelers beat Houston 22-16.



Bill Mount

▲ Atlanta stayed unbeaten when Mick Luckhurst kicked a 34-yard field goal to rally the Falcons to a 23-20 overtime victory at Tampa Bay.



Lou Witt



Tony Tomasic

▲ Gerald (Ice Cube) McNeil heads for the end zone on his way to an 84-yard punt return, longest in Browns history. Cleveland beat Detroit 24-21.

WEEK 5 Shula and Dolphins Get a Look at the NFL From 'the Other Side' at 1-4 After Loss to Patriots

Don Shula was as shocked as everyone else in the NFL.

He had taken the Miami Dolphins to five Super Bowls, but suddenly in 1986 they were off to a 1-4 start, their poorest since 1969 and Shula's most futile beginning in 24 years of coaching.

Their latest loss—and it sounds strange to say that—was a 34-7 collapse against New England. The Patriots ran and passed for 429 yards and 25 first downs, and limited the Dolphins to 251 and 13 at Foxboro, Massachusetts.

"This is the lowest this football team has ever been," Shula said. "I thought it couldn't get any worse than last week [a 31-16 loss to the 49ers], but I was wrong. Today was worse."

In five weeks, the Dolphins had allowed a league-high 176 points . . . more than they al-

lowed in the entire 14-game seasons of 1971, 1972, and 1973.

New England cheerfully scored on five of its six first-half possessions for a 27-0 lead. Tony Eason threw two touchdown passes, and, when he hurt his ribs, Steve Grogan came on to throw another in the second half.

Out West, Denver remained one of three unbeaten teams with an impressive 29-14 victory over injury-riddled Dallas.

Danny White missed the game with a hip injury, and his replacement, Steve Pelluer, was treated rudely by the host Broncos. They sacked him five times, once for a safety by defensive end Rulon Jones, and intercepted three of his passes, two by cornerback Louis Wright.

The Cowboys also played without Tony Dorsett, and lost defensive tackle Randy White during the game.

In Chicago, it looked as if the unbeaten Bears would get a challenge in the NFC Central from revitalized Minnesota, winner of three games in a row.

But the Super Bowl XX champions sacked Tommy Kramer seven times and limited the Vikings to 159 yards in a 23-0 victory. Kramer had thrown six touchdown passes against Green Bay the previous week.

The Bears' Walter Payton rushed for 108 yards and scored once, while Jim McMahon passed for 204 yards.

Washington, the third team at 5-0 after five weeks, squeezed past New Orleans 14-6 at the Superdome. George Rogers carried 31 times for 110 yards and a touchdown for the Redskins.

In defeat, the Saints' Morten Andersen kicked two field goals to run his streak to 20 in a row, but then missed a 51-yarder.

Another unbeaten team, Atlanta, was gobbled up by visiting Philadelphia 16-0, the second consecutive victory for Buddy Ryan, who also contributed to a shutout of the Falcons (36-0) when he was the Bears' defensive coordinator in 1985. The aggressive Eagles sacked Falcons quarterback Dave Archer seven times.

The 49ers continued to thrive with Air Kemp, as Jeff of the same name fired three touchdown passes to explosive wide receiver Jerry Rice in a 35-14 defeat of Indianapolis. Rice's scoring catches of 45, 16, and 58 yards tied San Francisco's single-game record.

Luckless Buffalo had 12 men on the field, but it didn't help, as the Jets' Ken O'Brien threw a 36-yard scoring pass to tight end Mickey Shuler with 57 seconds left for a 14-13 victory at the Meadowlands. O'Brien tied Joe Namath's team record with 15 successive completions on the way to a 29-of-39 day.

The Jets' Johnny Hector rushed for 117 yards and caught nine passes for 100 more.

Norm Johnson tied a Seahawks record with four field goals, including a club-record-tying 54-yarder. Dave Krieg threw three touchdown passes, and Curt Warner ran for 142 yards as Seattle turned San Diego upside down 33-7 on Monday night in the Kingdome.

The Cleveland Browns snapped a 16-game losing streak in Pittsburgh with a 27-24 come-from-behind victory over the Steelers. Gerald (Ice Cube) McNeil, the Browns' 146-pound refugee from the USFL, helped out with a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

► Browns rookie wide receiver Webster Slaughter spiked the ball with authority after catching a 15-yard touchdown pass from Bernie Kosar. Cleveland rallied to win at Pittsburgh 27-24.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Steve Largent



Ronnie Lippett



Eric Dickerson



Garry Cobb

AFC OFFENSE—Steve Largent, wide receiver, Seattle Seahawks, and Charlie Joiner, wide receiver, San Diego Chargers

Joiner, 38 (39 on October 14) and Largent, 32, both set all-time NFL records in Seattle's 33-7 victory over San Diego at the Kingdome. Joiner caught four passes for 39 yards to surpass Don Maynard's career mark for receiving yardage (11,855 to 11,834). Largent caught four passes for 78 yards and a touchdown to run his consecutive-game reception streak to 128, breaking the mark he shared with Harold Carmichael.

AFC DEFENSE—Ronnie Lippett, cornerback, New England Patriots

Lippett intercepted Dan Marino twice to set up a field goal and a touchdown and made three solo tackles in the host Patriots' 34-7 victory over Miami.

NFC OFFENSE—Eric Dickerson, running back, Los Angeles Rams

Dickerson ran for 207 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Rams past Tampa Bay 26-20 in overtime.

NFC DEFENSE—Garry Cobb, linebacker, Philadelphia Eagles

Cobb made nine tackles, four of them sacks of Dave Archer, in the Eagles' 16-0 victory in Atlanta.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	4	1	0
New England	3	2	0
Buffalo	1	4	0
Miami	1	4	0
Indianapolis	0	5	0
AFC Central	W	L	T
Cincinnati	3	2	0
Cleveland	3	2	0
Houston	1	4	0
Pittsburgh	1	4	0
AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	5	0	0
Seattle	4	1	0
Kansas City	3	2	0
L.A. Raiders	2	3	0
San Diego	1	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	5	0	0
N.Y. Giants	4	1	0
Dallas	3	2	0
Philadelphia	2	3	0
St. Louis	0	5	0
NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	5	0	0
Minnesota	3	2	0
Detroit	2	3	0
Tampa Bay	1	4	0
Green Bay	0	5	0
NFC West	W	L	T
Atlanta	4	1	0
L.A. Rams	4	1	0
San Francisco	4	1	0
New Orleans	1	4	0

SCORES

AFC	SCORE
Cleveland 27, Pittsburgh 24	
L.A. Raiders 24, Kansas City 17	
New England 34, Miami 7	
N.Y. Jets 14, Buffalo 13	
Seattle 33, San Diego 7	
NFC	SCORE
Chicago 23, Minnesota 0	
L.A. Rams 26, Tampa Bay 20 (OT)	
N.Y. Giants 13, St. Louis 6	
Philadelphia 16, Atlanta 0	
Washington 14, New Orleans 6	
Interconference	SCORE
Cincinnati 34, Green Bay 28	
Denver 29, Dallas 14	
Detroit 24, Houston 13	
San Francisco 35, Indianapolis 14	



Joiner and Largent Set All-Time Records, Lofton Passes a Legend, and the Raiders Get Lucky



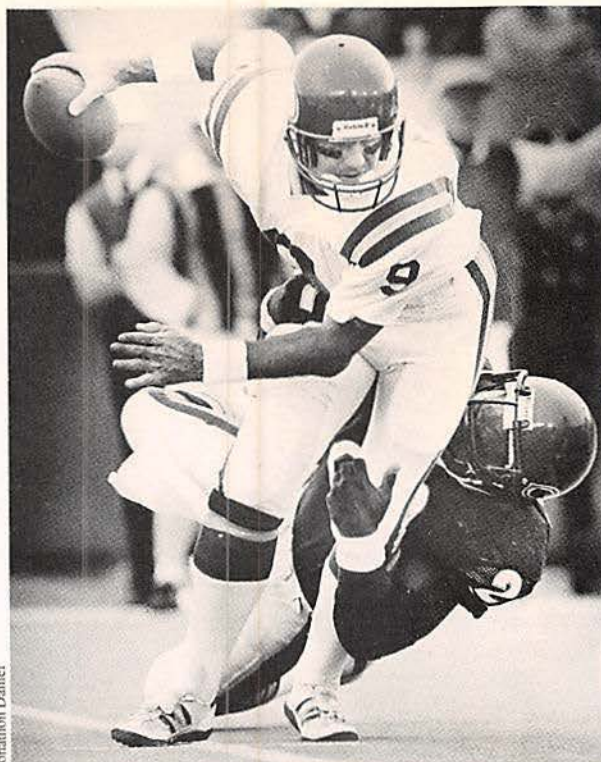
Bob Rosato

▲ Denver quarterback John Elway was upended by Dallas safety Michael Downs, but the Cowboys didn't upset him often enough as Elway passed for three touchdowns in the Broncos' 29-14 victory.



Scott Cunningham

▲ Eagles running back Keith Byars picked up 54 yards on 18 carries to help Philadelphia hand Atlanta its first defeat, 16-0.



Jonathon Daniel

▲ Safety Dave Duerson had two of Chicago's seven sacks of Minnesota's Tommy Kramer as the Bears mauled the Vikings 23-0.



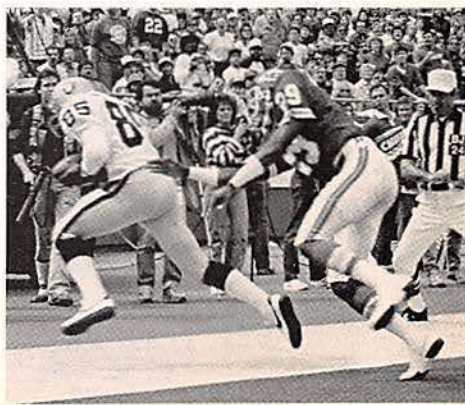
Vernon Biever

▲ James Lofton of the Packers celebrated after breaking Don Hutson's team record for career receptions, but Green Bay lost to Cincinnati 34-28.



▲ While Miami's John Offerdahl watched, Stanley Morgan (86) and Irving Fryar slapped hands in the end zone, following Fryar's catch of a 38-yard touchdown pass from Tony Eason. The Patriots breezed to a 34-7 victory.

Dave Cross



Miguel Elliot

▲ Back judge Roy Clymer ruled that Dokie Williams of the Raiders got both feet down in the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown catch. The instant-replay official ruled Williams out, but the field crew misunderstood his explanation of the call and let the score stand. The Raiders defeated Kansas City 24-17.



Brian Drake



Brian Drake

A Historic Afternoon in Seattle

On the same day, in the same game, San Diego's Charlie Joiner (above) and Seattle's Steve Largent (below) both set all-time NFL pass-catching records. Joiner's 20-yard reception in the third quarter broke Don Maynard's career-yardage mark (11,834). Joiner's four catches in the game gave him 11,855 yards in his 18-year career. In the second quarter, Largent caught a 14-yard pass to extend his consecutive-game reception streak to 128, breaking the mark he shared with Harold Carmichael. Seattle won 33-7.

WEEK 6 Multi-Talented Herschel Walker Takes Over for Dorsett and Drives Redskins Crazy

Tony Dorsett, still not fully recovered from a sprained knee, carried the ball 18 times against the unbeaten Washington Redskins, and they cut him down with just 22 yards.

It was a game Dallas had to win, but Dorsett, who missed the two previous games with his injury, couldn't work any magic.

But Herschel Walker could.

The newest Cowboys running back, who came from the USFL in August, rallied Dallas to an impressive 30-6 victory over the visiting Redskins, leaving his team just a game behind Washington and the New York Giants in the NFC East.

Walker rushed for only 45 yards, but while playing running back, flanker, and tight end, he caught six passes for 155, set up two touchdowns, and scored from the one after each of them.

There was a lot of good defense played

around the NFL this Sunday, particularly in the Meadowlands by the New York Giants. Rolling to their fifth successive win, the Giants swallowed up Philadelphia 35-3, holding the Eagles to 117 yards and nine first downs.

New York's defense collected six sacks against Eagles quarterbacks Ron Jaworski and Randall Cunningham, including four by Lawrence Taylor. Linebacker Harry Carson even played offense, scoring on a 13-yard pass from Jeff Rutledge on a fake field goal.

Quarterback Phil Simms also was on his game, completing 20 of 29 passes for two touchdowns and running for a third, while Joe Morris dashed 30 yards for another score.

The New York Jets also ran their record to 5-1 after a critical 31-24 victory over the Patriots at New England. The Jets boosted their winning streak to four in a row.

With Pat Ryan subbing for the injured Ken

O'Brien at quarterback, New York took a 24-0 halftime lead, then withstood a second-half passing assault by Steve Grogan, who was subbing for injured Tony Eason.

Grogan threw for a career-high 401 yards and three second-half touchdowns, including a 44-yard pass to Stanley Morgan and a 69-yarder to Irving Fryar.

There were just two unbeaten teams left after six weeks, Chicago in the NFC and Denver in the AFC.

The Bears won their twelfth successive game, counting playoffs, when they huffed and puffed past host Houston 20-7, the fifth loss in a row for the Oilers. Listening to coach Mike Ditka, however, it was difficult to tell his team was 6-0.

"We won the game, but we certainly didn't play well," he snapped. "We cannot pretend to contend for a championship playing the way we did today."

While Ditka muttered, Walter Payton became the first NFL player to surpass 20,000 all-purpose yards when he rushed for 76 and caught a 30-yard pass, jumping his career total to 20,045. Meanwhile, the Bears' defense sacked Warren Moon five times.

The unbeaten Broncos controlled the ball for nearly 39 minutes as they slapped down San Diego 31-14, handing the host Chargers their fifth loss in a row.

Denver led only 10-7 at halftime, but marched 89 and 82 yards on second-half drives and took control of the game. John Elway passed for 242 yards and a touchdown, while safety Tony Lilly intercepted two Dan Fouts passes.

In an NFC West showdown, the Atlanta Falcons took sole possession of first place by controlling the ball for 34 minutes and out-running the visiting Los Angeles Rams 26-14. Gerald Riggs almost doubled Eric Dickerson's yardage (141 to 73), and Mick Luckhurst kicked four field goals.

Playing for the injured Marc Wilson, the Raiders' Jim Plunkett directed two early drives that he culminated with touchdown passes as Los Angeles jumped ahead of Seattle 14-0. The Raiders then relied on their defense, which sacked Dave Krieg four times and limited the Seahawks to 211 yards in a 14-10 victory.

Cleveland held Kansas City to just 126 yards and 10 first downs, while Bernie Kosar passed for 287 yards and two touchdowns in the Browns' 20-7 victory.

► **Minnesota's Tommy Kramer passed for 326 yards and threw two touchdown passes to Anthony Carter as the Vikings rallied from a 10-point deficit to edge San Francisco 27-24 in overtime.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Johnny Hector



Leonard Coleman



Gerald Riggs



Lawrence Taylor

AFC OFFENSE—**Johnny Hector**, running back, New York Jets

Hector, taking over a starting role subbing for the injured Freeman McNeil, rushed for a career-high 143 yards on a team-record 40 carries, caught two passes, and scored three touchdowns as the Jets held on to defeat host New England 31-24.

AFC DEFENSE—**Leonard Coleman**, cornerback, Indianapolis Colts

Although the winless Colts lost to New Orleans 17-14 at the Hoosier Dome, Coleman was a one-man defense, intercepting Saints quarterback Dave Wilson three times and making seven tackles.

NFC OFFENSE—**Gerald Riggs**, running back, Atlanta Falcons

Riggs rushed for 141 yards on 35 carries and scored a touchdown as the Falcons dominated the Rams 26-14.

NFC DEFENSE—**Lawrence Taylor**, linebacker, New York Giants

Taylor led a fierce rush on Philadelphia quarterbacks Ron Jaworski and Randall Cunningham, making 13 tackles, including four sacks, in the Giants' 35-3 victory at the Meadowlands.

STANDINGS

AFC East

	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	5	1	0
New England	3	3	0
Miami	2	4	0
Buffalo	1	5	0
Indianapolis	0	6	0

AFC Central

	W	L	T
Cincinnati	4	2	0
Cleveland	4	2	0
Houston	1	5	0
Pittsburgh	1	5	0

AFC West

	W	L	T
Denver	6	0	0
Seattle	4	2	0
Kansas City	3	3	0
L.A. Raiders	3	3	0
San Diego	1	5	0

NFC East

	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	5	1	0
Washington	5	1	0
Dallas	4	2	0
Philadelphia	2	4	0
St. Louis	1	5	0

NFC Central

	W	L	T
Chicago	6	0	0
Minnesota	4	2	0
Detroit	3	3	0
Tampa Bay	1	5	0
Green Bay	0	6	0

NFC West

	W	L	T
Atlanta	5	1	0
L.A. Rams	4	2	0
San Francisco	4	2	0
New Orleans	2	4	0

SCORES

AFC

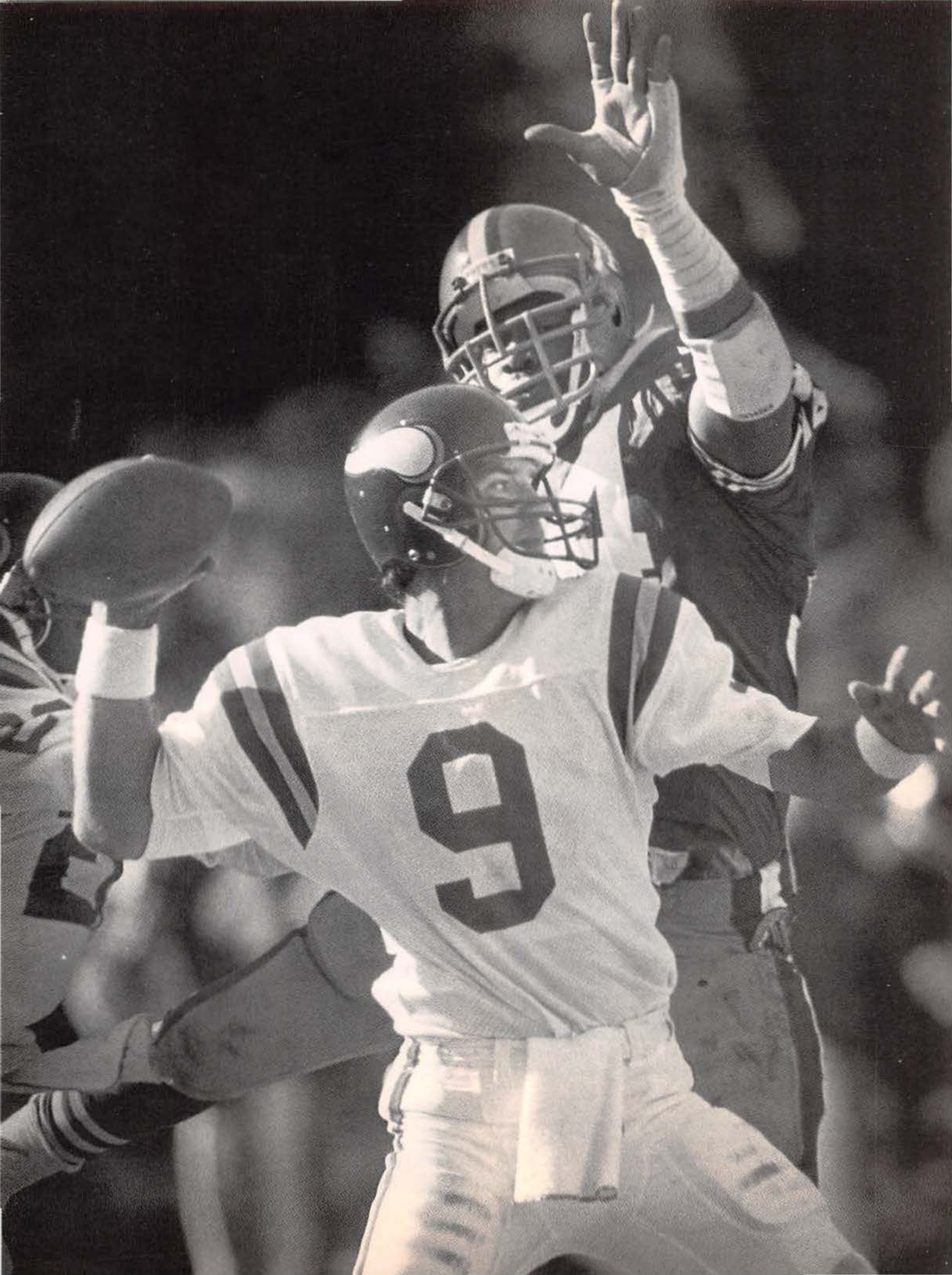
Cincinnati 24, Pittsburgh 22
Cleveland 20, Kansas City 7
Denver 31, San Diego 14
L.A. Raiders 14, Seattle 10
Miami 27, Buffalo 14
N.Y. Jets 31, New England 24

NFC

Atlanta 26, L.A. Rams 14
Dallas 30, Washington 6
Detroit 21, Green Bay 14
Minnesota 27, S. Francisco 24 (OT)
N.Y. Giants 35, Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 30, Tampa Bay 19

Interconference

Chicago 20, Houston 7
New Orleans 17, Indianapolis 14



**Walker Dazzles the Redskins,
Atlanta Gets a Leg Up on the Rams,
the Jets Stop the Patriots...and
Score One for a Punter**



L.D. Fullerton

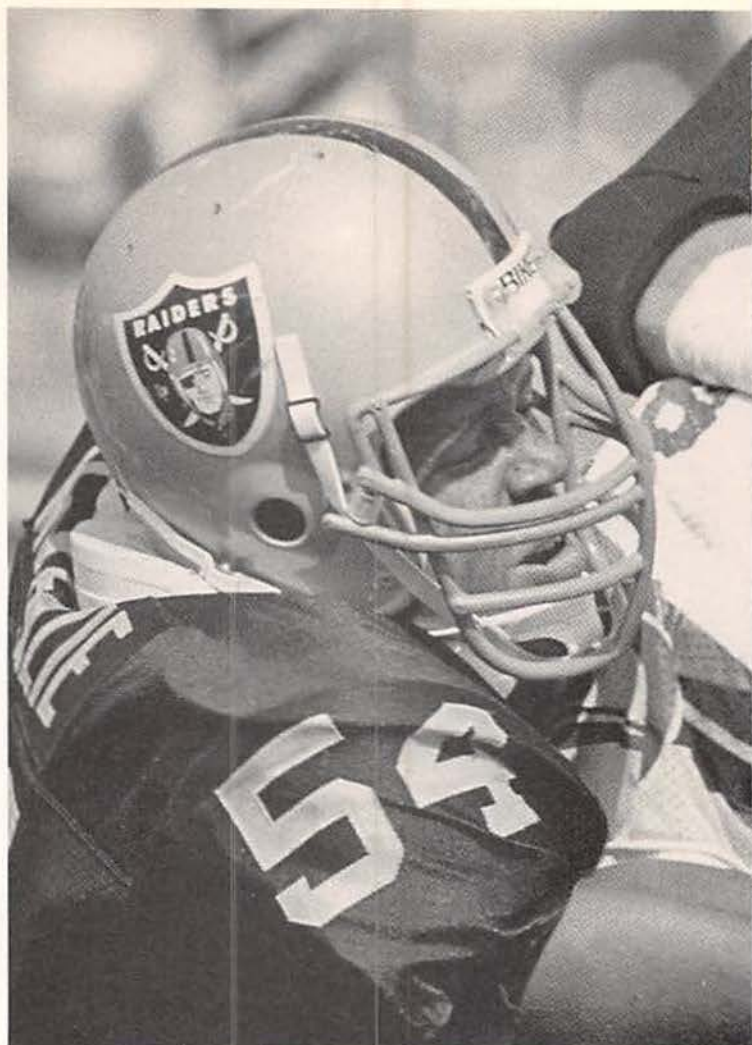
▲ Punter Jeff Hayes of Cincinnati shocked Pittsburgh by running 61 yards for a touchdown from punt formation early in the fourth quarter, helping the Bengals to a 24-22 victory.



John H. Reid III

▲ Kansas City's Stephone Paige (center) outwrestled Frank Minnifield and Chris Rockins of the Browns for a 26-yard scoring pass, but Cleveland won 20-7.

► Herschel Walker ran for 45 yards, caught six passes for 155 more, and scored two touchdowns in a 30-6 Dallas victory over previously unbeaten Washington.



▲ The defensive-minded Raiders won their third game in a row, frustrating Seattle 14-10 as players such as linebacker Reggie McKenzie (54) put the squeeze on running back Curt Warner.

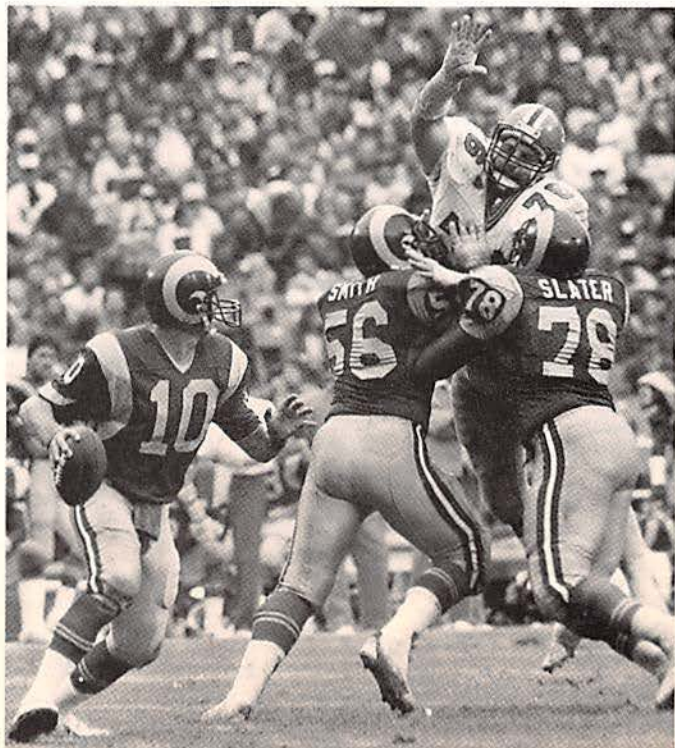


Nate Fine Productions



Corky Trewin

▼ Doug Smith and Jackie Slater teamed to give Steve Bartkowski great protection when he faced his old team, Atlanta. But the Falcons ran their way to a 26-14 victory.



Perry McIntyre, Jr.



Dave Cross

▲ Buffalo linebacker Eugene Marve greeted Miami's Lorenzo Hampton on the goal line, but Hampton scored on a 1-yard run. The Dolphins won the game 27-14.



Thomas J. Croke

▲ Jets tight end Mickey Shuler got the jump on Patriots linebacker Andre Tippett and caught a 1-yard touchdown pass. New York took the AFC East showdown 31-24.

WEEK 7 Bears' Dreams of Undefeated Season Fall to Vikings' Onslaught; Broncos Also Suffer First Loss

For six weeks, the only suspense in the NFC's Central Division was whether or not the Chicago Bears would go unbeaten.

In the fifth week, the Minnesota Vikings, then 4-1, briefly loomed as challengers to the Super Bowl-champion Bears, who were not amused. They swatted the Vikings down with a 23-0 whitewash.

Two weeks later, in week 7, the two teams had their rematch, and once again scoreboards around the NFL flashed a 23-0 score.

But this time the Vikings had the 23.

Minnesota took that lead into the fourth quarter and wound up with an impressive 23-7 victory, snapping the Bears' 12-game, two-year winning streak, counting the playoffs. The win also moved the Vikings (5-2) to within a game of Chicago (6-1). It was the Bears' first loss in the division since late 1984.

It was a bad week all around for unbeaten

teams. The NFL's only other perfect team, Denver of the AFC, fell behind the New York Jets 22-0 at halftime and lost 22-10.

The losing coaches had no excuses.

"They took it to us and shoved it down our throats," said the Bears' Mike Ditka.

"They controlled the line of scrimmage right from the start," said the Broncos' Dan Reeves.

The Bears had to play without quarterback Jim McMahon, who sat on his helmet on the sideline with back and shoulder injuries, while the Vikings sacked his replacement, Steve Fuller, seven times. Minnesota held Chicago to 190 yards.

Meanwhile, the Vikings ran and passed for 376 as Tommy Kramer threw touchdown bombs to Alfred Anderson (37 yards) and Anthony Carter (60) and ran 5 yards for another score.

In New York, the Jets won their fifth game in a row as they held Denver to just two first downs and 24 yards in an almost perfect first half. They also sacked Broncos quarterback John Elway five times, including once for a safety by cornerback Bobby Humphery.

Pat Ryan, who was starting at quarterback in place of Ken O'Brien (injured knee), completed 9 of 10 passes to help build a 13-0 lead. Then, when Ryan bruised his ribs, O'Brien came off the bench to lob a 23-yard scoring pass to Wesley Walker. Pat Leahy helped out with two field goals, giving him 22 in a row.

Another hot AFC team, the Los Angeles Raiders, built a 30-14 lead at Miami and held on to defeat the Dolphins 30-28 for their fourth successive win. The Raiders had started the season 0-3.

Marcus Allen missed two days of practice with his slowly healing sprained ankle, but recovered enough to run for 96 yards, catch three passes, and score three touchdowns. In all, Los Angeles rushed for 214 yards and kept the ball for more than 37 minutes.

The Seattle Seahawks flipped Giants quarterback Phil Simms around, sacking him seven times and snapping New York's five-game winning streak 17-12.

End Jacob Green had four of the sacks, while cornerback Dave Brown intercepted two passes, including one on the Seahawks' 10 with 59 seconds left to save the victory.

Seahawks wide receiver Steve Largent made two catches to give him 650 in his career, as he passed Charley Taylor (649) for second place on the NFL's all-time list (San Diego's Charlie Joiner leads with 735).

While the Giants lost, NFC East rival Dallas squeezed past Philadelphia 17-14 on Rafael Septien's 38-yard, game-winning field goal with two seconds left. It was the eighth game-winning kick of Septien's career.

The Cowboys' defense assaulted Eagles quarterbacks Matt Cavanaugh and Randall Cunningham with 10 sacks. Defensive end Jim Jeffcoat led the way with 3½; safety Bill Bates accounted for 2.

Atlanta and San Francisco played only the ninth tie since the NFL went to the overtime format in 1974 when they fought to a 10-10 standoff. The 49ers led 10-3 with time running out in regulation, but 5-foot 7-inch Sylvester Stamps caught a short pass from Dave Archer and dashed 39 yards for the tying touchdown with 1:33 left.

Neither team threatened in overtime.

► **Lions fullback James Jones watched the ball—and a potential touchdown—roll away from him at the Rams' 1-yard line. Linebacker Mel Owens recovered, and Los Angeles went on to win 14-10.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



James Brooks



Lloyd Burruss



Rueben Mayes



Gerald Robinson

AFC OFFENSE—James Brooks, running back, Cincinnati Bengals

Brooks ran for 133 yards, caught six passes for 62, and scored two touchdowns, as the host Bengals defeated Houston 31-28 to take over sole possession of first place in the AFC Central.

AFC DEFENSE—Lloyd Burruss, safety, Kansas City Chiefs

Burruss intercepted three passes, returning two by San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts 56 and 47 yards for touchdowns, and made 12 tackles, as the Chiefs held off the visiting Chargers 42-41.

NFC OFFENSE—Rueben Mayes, running back, New Orleans Saints

Mayes, a rookie from Washington State, ran for 172 yards and two touchdowns, the second-best rushing day in Saints history, to lead New Orleans past Tampa Bay 38-7 at the Superdome.

NFC DEFENSE—Gerald Robinson, end, Minnesota Vikings

Robinson, a rookie from Auburn, led an aggressive Minnesota defense that sacked Chicago's Steve Fuller seven times in the Vikings' 23-7 upset victory over the host Bears. Robinson, who was the Vikings' number-one draft choice, had 2½ sacks, plus six other tackles.

STANDINGS

AFC East

W	L	T
6	1	0
4	3	0
2	5	0
2	5	0
0	7	0

AFC Central

5	2	0
4	3	0
1	6	0
1	6	0

AFC West

6	1	0
5	2	0
4	3	0
4	3	0
1	6	0

NFC East

W	L	T
6	1	0
5	2	0
5	2	0
2	5	0
1	6	0

NFC Central

6	1	0
5	2	0
3	4	0
1	6	0
1	6	0

NFC West

5	1	1
5	2	0
4	2	1
3	4	0

SCORES

AFC

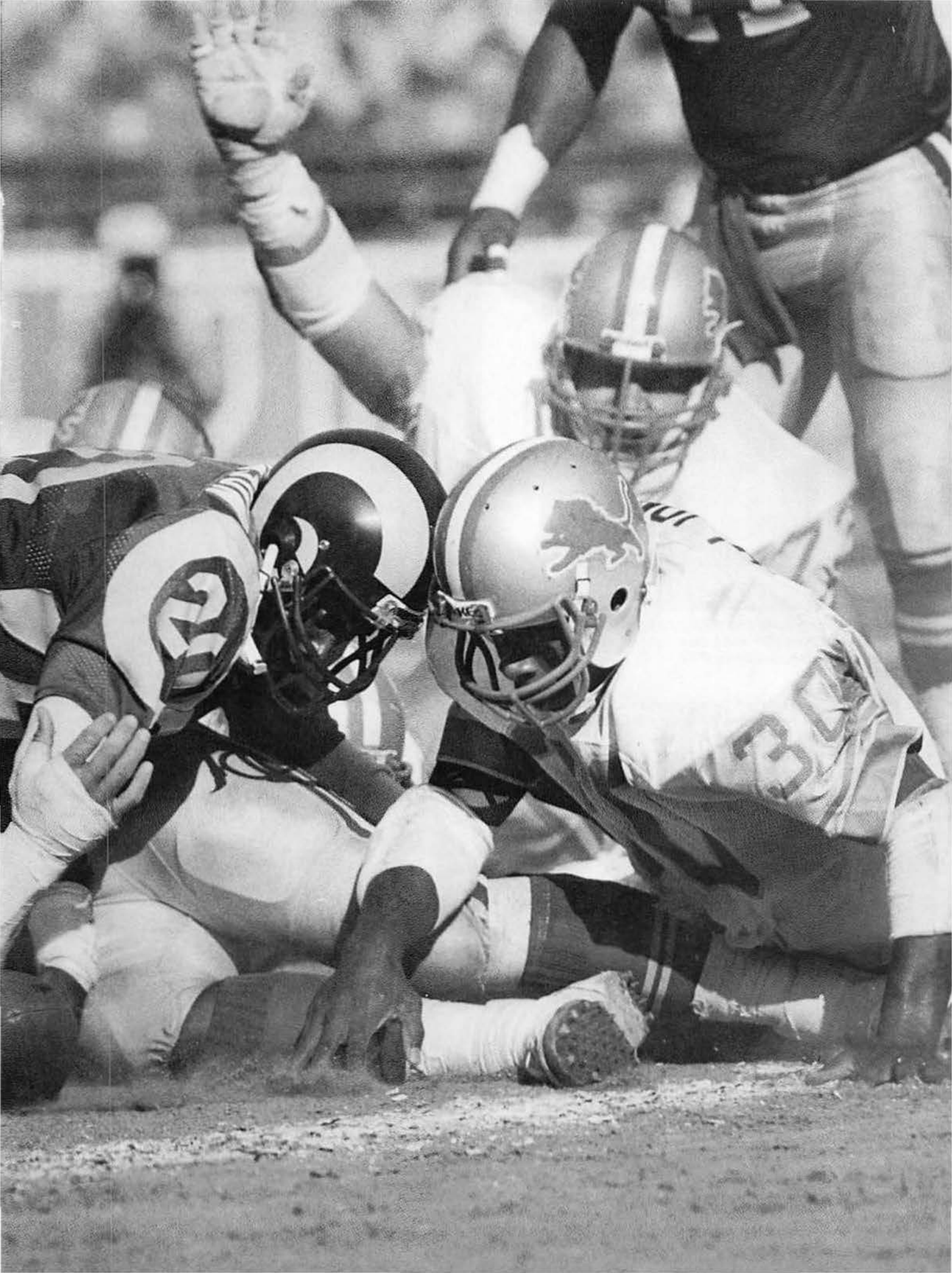
Buffalo 24, Indianapolis 13
Cincinnati 31, Houston 28
Kansas City 42, San Diego 41
L.A. Raiders 30, Miami 28
New England 34, Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Jets 22, Denver 10

NFC

Dallas 17, Philadelphia 14
L.A. Rams 14, Detroit 10
Minnesota 23, Chicago 7
New Orleans 38, Tampa Bay 7
San Francisco 10, Atlanta 10 (OT)
Washington 28, St. Louis 21

Interconference

Green Bay 17, Cleveland 14
Seattle 17, N.Y. Giants 12



Seattle Sacks the Giants, Denver's Unbeaten Streak Ends, Rueben Is A-Mayes-ing, and Falcons and 49ers Are Fit to Be Tied



Cody Trevin

▲ Phil Simms grew to hate the sight (and touch) of Seattle's Jacob Green (79), who sacked him four times as the Seahawks upset the Giants 17-12.

► Atlanta and San Francisco played to a 10-10 tie in overtime after the Falcons' Sylvester Stamps scored on a 39-yard pass with 1:33 left in regulation.



Pete J. Groh

▲ Winless Green Bay avoided the possibility of going 0-for-1986 when Walter Stanley's kick returns helped produce a 17-14 upset of Cleveland.



Michael Zagaris



Miguel Elliot

▲ This is a hole that the well-known truck could be driven through. Instead Marcus Allen charged through untouched. Allen ran for 96 yards, caught three passes, and scored three touchdowns as the Raiders held off Miami 30-28.

▼ Rookie Rueben Mayes stormed for 172 yards and two touchdowns to lead New Orleans past Tampa Bay 38-7.



George Gokovich



Tim Alexander

▲ Two hot teams, the Jets and the Broncos, met in the Meadowlands, and when it was over, New York had won its fifth in a row (22-10), and Denver no longer was unbeaten. The Jets sacked John Elway five times, including this one by defensive end Mark Gastineau.



Robert L. Smith

◀ The game was only 2:54 old when Buffalo cornerback Rodney Bellinger returned an Indianapolis fumble 15 yards for a touchdown. The Bills went on to win 24-13.

WEEK 8 Sizzling in the Rain, the Jets Stretch Winning Streak to Six by Beating New Orleans

It was a rainy day in New Jersey, but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the New York Jets, who remained the hottest team in the NFL.

They reached the halfway point of the season with a 7-1 record—the fastest start in club history—and stretched their winning streak to six in a row with a 28-23 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

Quarterback Ken O'Brien and wide receiver Al Toon played catch, as New York built a 28-6 lead and held off a 17-point, fourth-quarter rally by the Saints. O'Brien completed 20 of 32 passes for 258 yards and three touchdowns—all to Toon—that went 16, 62, and 6 yards.

On his 62-yard touchdown, Toon beat the halftime gun by 19 seconds, eluding three New Orleans tacklers.

"He's in a class by himself," said the Jets'

other wide receiver, Wesley Walker. "Al is like a little guy with all those quick moves, yet he's able to break tackles time and time again."

Toon, the Jets' number-one draft choice in 1985, definitely is not a little guy at 6 feet 4 inches and 205 pounds.

The Los Angeles Raiders, who built their own winning streak with five in a row, also had a good day through the air. Marc Wilson and tight end Todd Christensen teamed for three touchdown passes in a 28-17 defeat of Houston. The Oilers continued going the other way. It was their seventh successive loss, and fourth at home.

Wilson threw four touchdown passes in all, with his scoring connections to Christensen going 14, 32, and 3 yards. The other scoring pass went 2 yards to reserve tight end Andy Parker.

The Raiders' defense sacked Houston quarterback Warren Moon six times, intercepted four of his passes, and deflected eight more.

The Chicago Bears rebounded from their lone loss to stifle Detroit 13-7 at Chicago, relying on their defense and kicker Kevin Butler, whose two field goals gave him 12 in a row.

The Bears (7-1) scored their only touchdown in the first quarter when linebacker Wilber Marshall sacked Detroit quarterback Eric Hipple, forced a fumble, picked it up, and ran 12 yards into the end zone.

"We're going to get in a lot of dogfights," said Bears coach Mike Ditka. "I hope in the end that makes us a better dog."

There was a three-way tie for first in the NFC East among Dallas, Washington, and the New York Giants, all 6-2, after the Cowboys breezed past St. Louis 37-6, and the Giants trimmed the Redskins 27-20.

The Cowboys scored on seven of their first eight possessions under the leadership of Danny White and Steve Pelluer. White, who had missed three successive games with a hip injury, played only the first half but threw two touchdown passes. Pelluer completed 12 of his 16 attempts.

Herschel Walker picked up his first NFL 100-yard rushing day with 120 and two touchdowns at Texas Stadium.

The Giants opened a 20-3 lead on the Redskins at the Meadowlands, then were rocked by Jay Schroeder, who passed for 420 yards and forced a 20-20 tie. Eleven of Schroeder's passes went to wide receiver Gary Clark, who gained a club-record 241 yards, including a touchdown.

The Giants won the game with an 81-yard drive that culminated with just 1:38 left when 5-foot 7-inch Joe Morris, who rushed for 181, darted 13 yards for a touchdown.

Cleveland and Cincinnati were tied for first in the AFC Central Division after the Browns rallied to edge the Minnesota Vikings 23-20, and the Bengals were ravaged by Pittsburgh 30-9.

The Browns gained only 199 yards, 106 of them on the ground by Curtis Dickey. Matt Bahr kicked a 22-yard field goal with 1:46 left for the win.

Pittsburgh played almost a perfect game at home against Cincinnati, as Earnest Jackson ran for 132 yards and a touchdown, Walter Abercrombie rushed for 109 yards, and Mark Malone passed for two touchdowns.

► **Joe Morris accelerated for 181 yards and two touchdowns as the Giants outlasted Washington 27-20 to force a three-way tie for first in the NFC East. His winning score came with 1:38 left.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



John Elway



John Offerdahl



Joe Morris



Ronnie Lott

AFC OFFENSE—John Elway, quarterback, Denver Broncos

Elway completed 18 of 32 passes for 321 yards and a touchdown as the Broncos improved their record to 7-1 with a 20-13 defeat of Seattle at Denver.

AFC DEFENSE—John Offerdahl, linebacker, Miami Dolphins

Offerdahl made 10 tackles, nine of them solos, and broke up three passes, as the Dolphins outlasted Indianapolis 17-13 at the Hoosier Dome. On fourth down, with 22 seconds left, he tackled Colts fullback Owen Gill on the Miami 14, two yards short of a first down, to save the victory.

NFC OFFENSE—Joe Morris, running back, New York Giants

Morris rushed for 181 yards, caught five passes for 59, and scored on 11- and 13-yard runs, as the Giants won a 27-20 showdown with the Washington Redskins.

NFC DEFENSE—Ronnie Lott, safety, San Francisco 49ers

Lott, the NFL's leading interceptor, picked off his seventh and eighth passes of the year and made 11 tackles in the 49ers' 31-17 defeat of Green Bay at Milwaukee. He returned the second pass 55 yards for a touchdown.

STANDINGS

AFC East

	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	7	1	0
New England	5	3	0
Miami	3	5	0
Buffalo	2	6	0
Indianapolis	0	8	0

AFC Central

	W	L	T
Cincinnati	5	3	0
Cleveland	5	3	0
Pittsburgh	2	6	0
Houston	1	7	0

AFC West

	W	L	T
Denver	7	1	0
Kansas City	5	3	0
L.A. Raiders	5	3	0
Seattle	5	3	0
San Diego	1	7	0

NFC East

	W	L	T
Dallas	6	2	0
N.Y. Giants	6	2	0
Washington	6	2	0
Philadelphia	3	5	0
St. Louis	1	7	0

NFC Central

	W	L	T
Chicago	7	1	0
Minnesota	5	3	0
Detroit	3	5	0
Green Bay	1	7	0
Tampa Bay	1	7	0

NFC West

	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	6	2	0
Atlanta	5	2	1
San Francisco	5	2	1
New Orleans	3	5	0

SCORES

AFC

Denver 20, Seattle 13
L.A. Raiders 28, Houston 17
Miami 17, Indianapolis 13
New England 23, Buffalo 3
Pittsburgh 30, Cincinnati 9

NFC

Chicago 13, Detroit 7
Dallas 37, St. Louis 6
L.A. Rams 14, Atlanta 7
N.Y. Giants 27, Washington 20
San Francisco 31, Green Bay 17

Interconference

Cleveland 23, Minnesota 20
Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 20
New York Jets 28, New Orleans 23
Philadelphia 23, San Diego 7



Toon Is Too Much, Elway and Broncos Roll On, Dickerson Takes to the Air, and Marshall Is a Hit

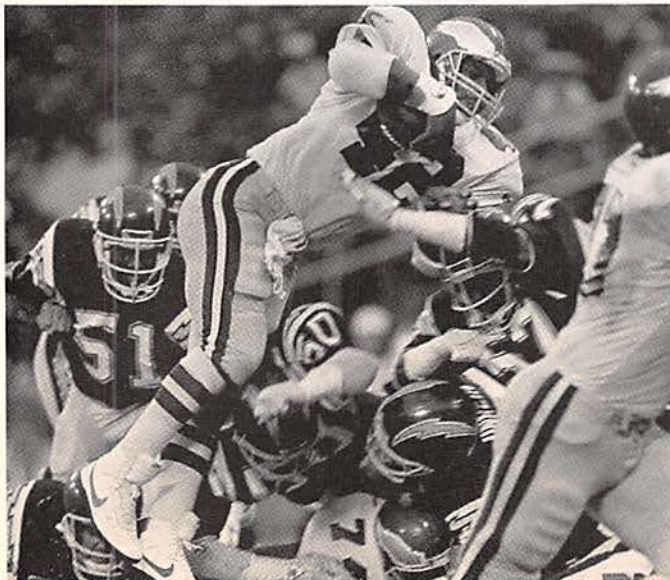
► Wide receiver Al Toon was loose all day, catching three touchdown passes from Ken O'Brien as he and the hot New York Jets (7-1) outscored New Orleans 28-23.

▼ With 48 seconds left, 49ers cornerback Tory Nixon stole a pass and raced 88 yards for a touchdown to kill Green Bay's bid for a tie. San Francisco won 31-17.

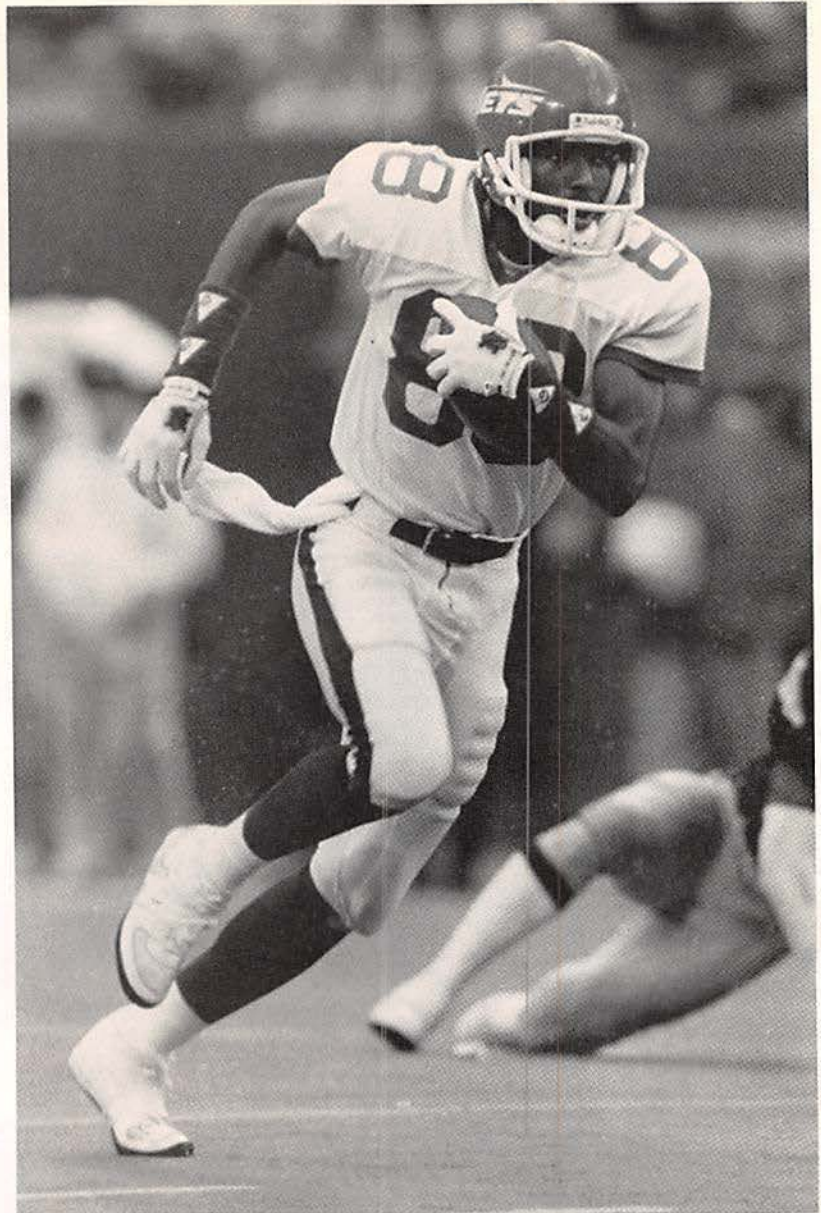


Michael Zagari

▼ He finished with no net yards on 10 carries, but Keith Byars leaped for a score as the Eagles stopped the Chargers 23-7.

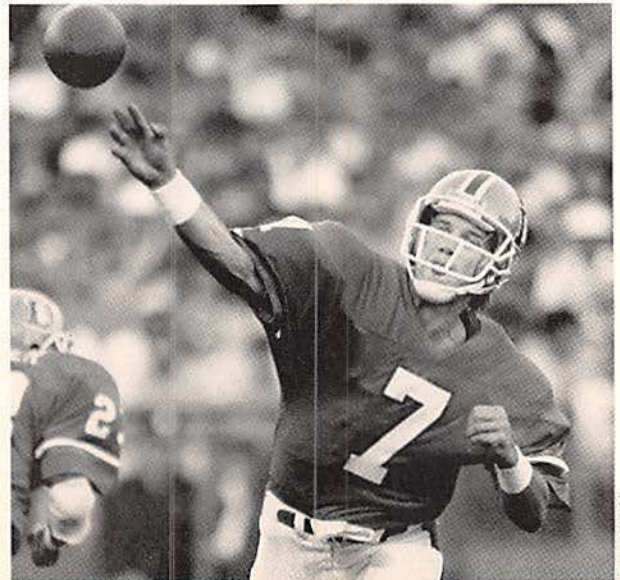


Bob Rosato

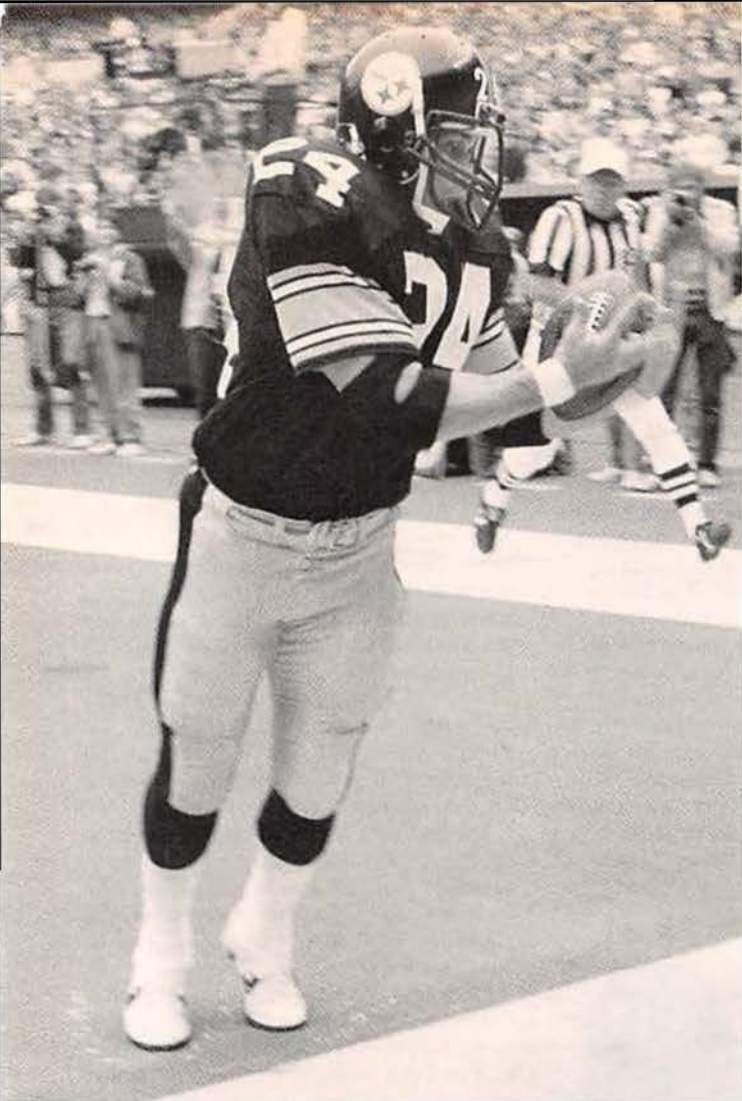


Jim Turner

▼ Denver rode the strong right arm of John Elway to a 20-13 defeat of Seattle. Elway passed for 321 yards and a touchdown, completing 18 of 32.



Paul Jasienki



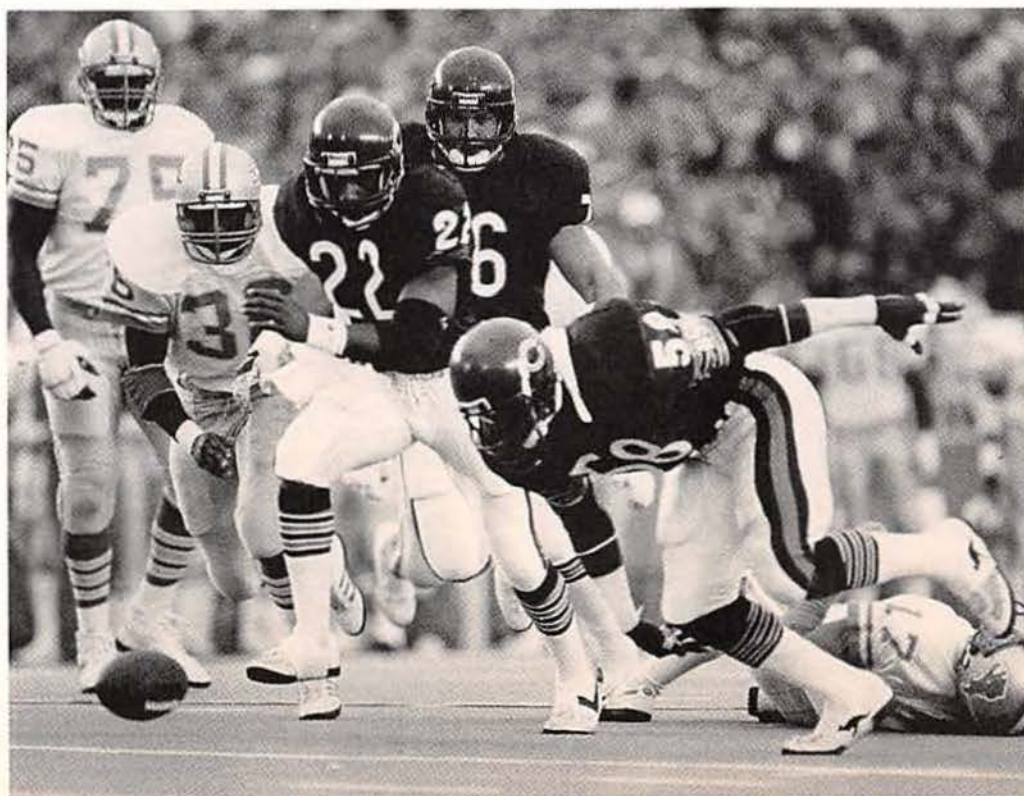
Bill Amato

▲ Pittsburgh running back Rich Erenberg tiptoed along the back of the end zone to take Mark Malone's 10-yard pass for a touchdown. The Steelers surprised Cincinnati 30-9.



David Boss

▲ Rams running back Eric Dickerson shocked Atlanta when he rolled to his right, then suddenly threw 15 yards to tight end David Hill for a touchdown. Los Angeles won 14-7.



Ron Vesely

◀ Bears linebacker Wilber Marshall (58) sacked Detroit's Eric Hipple (17 on ground), forced a fumble, then picked up the ball and ran 12 yards for a touchdown. Chicago needed that score to win 13-7.

WEEK 9 Redskins Struggle Past Vikings in Overtime in a Game That Puts the Gray Into Coaches' Hair

Wine is aged in kegs, but a game like this ages coaches right out in the open.

The host Washington Redskins, trying to stay in first place in the NFC East, survived three missed extra points, came from 12 points down in the last 5:16 to tie, and finally slipped past Minnesota in overtime 44-38.

"I feel like we've been playing for twelve hours... like we won, lost, won, lost, and won all at the same time," said Redskins coach Joe Gibbs.

Vikings coach Jerry Burns, whose team lost to Cleveland by a field goal in the last two minutes the previous week, was not only drained, he was depressed.

"It's a very tough loss to take," he said. "I thought we had it."

The Vikings, perhaps the league's most improved team in the first half of the season, got a marvelous game from quarterback Tommy

Kramer, who passed for a team-record 490 yards and four touchdowns, including 67- and 76-yard bombs to wide receiver Leo Lewis and a 68-yard collaboration with tight end Steve Jordan.

But Washington's Jay Schroeder threw for 378 yards and two touchdowns of his own, while George Rogers ran for three touchdowns, including one from 40 yards.

Rogers's 2-yard touchdown tied the score 38-38 with 1:03 left in regulation. Then, 1:46 into overtime, Schroeder threw to wide receiver Gary Clark, who broke loose for the 38-yard touchdown that won the game.

The Redskins remained tied with the Giants at 7-2, as New York outlasted visiting Dallas, the third NFC East contender, 17-14.

The Giants' Joe Morris ran for exactly 181 yards for the second successive week, scoring both of his team's touchdowns. Meanwhile,

New York's defense sacked Dallas quarterbacks Danny White and Steve Pelluer six times. On one sack, White suffered a fractured right wrist.

Pelluer almost pulled the game out, however, coming off the bench to throw for 339 yards. Herschel Walker caught nine passes for 148.

The Denver Broncos swept the season series with their fierce rivals, the Los Angeles Raiders, when they played take-away to stop the Raiders 21-10, snapping Los Angeles's five-game winning streak.

While a Coliseum sellout crowd of 90,153 booed Raiders quarterback Marc Wilson, the Broncos intercepted four of his passes and recovered two fumbles, one by Wilson, to run their record to 8-1.

The honor for Kicker of the Week went to the Rams' Mike Lansford, who made a 50-yard field goal with four seconds left to give his club a 20-17 upset of the Bears on Monday night. The loss snapped Chicago's 14-game home winning streak.

Once again the Rams' defense led the way. Cornerback Jerry Gray stole a pass to set up an earlier field goal by Lansford, and cornerback LeRoy Irvin returned a fumble by punter Maury Buford 22 yards for a touchdown.

The Bears played without injured quarterback Jim McMahon and lost Walter Payton with a dislocated toe in the third quarter, although Thomas Sanders came in to run 10 and 34 yards for touchdowns.

Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Henning was fuming after his team lost a touchdown on an instant-replay decision following a lengthy review in a 25-17 loss at New England.

The Patriots also benefitted from four field goals by Tony Franklin and a 59-yard touchdown by Irving Fryar on a punt return.

Nick Lowery ruined the debut of Chargers coach Al Saunders, who had replaced Don Coryell during the week, by kicking a 37-yard field goal with seven seconds left to give the Kansas City Chiefs a 24-23 victory in San Diego.

Cleveland and Cincinnati stayed in a first-place tie in the AFC Central with victories on the road.

The Bengals' Larry Kinnebrew blasted a yard for the winning touchdown with 40 seconds left in a 24-17 defeat of Detroit.

Cleveland, meanwhile, got three touchdown passes from Bernie Kosar, as the Browns downed the Colts 24-9.

► *With four seconds left, the Rams' Mike Lansford snapped the Bears' 14-game home winning streak with a 50-yard field goal. It gave NFC-West-leading Los Angeles a 20-17 Monday night victory.*

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Ken O'Brien



Mike Harden



Jay Schroeder



Rickey Jackson

AFC OFFENSE—Ken O'Brien, quarterback, New York Jets

O'Brien shrugged off the flu to throw for 431 yards and four touchdowns in the Jets' 38-7 win at Seattle, their seventh victory in a row. He completed 26 of his 32 attempts, with no interceptions. Included were scoring bombs of 50 and 36 yards to Al Toon and one of 83 yards to Wesley Walker.

AFC DEFENSE—Mike Harden, cornerback, Denver Broncos

Harden intercepted two passes and made five tackles as the Broncos' defense stifled the host Los Angeles Raiders in Denver's 21-10 victory. He returned the second interception 40 yards for the clinching touchdown.

NFC OFFENSE—Jay Schroeder, quarterback, Washington Redskins

Schroeder passed for 378 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winner to Gary Clark in overtime, as the Redskins rallied to defeat Minnesota 44-38 at RFK Stadium.

NFC DEFENSE—Rickey Jackson, linebacker, New Orleans Saints

Jackson made seven tackles, broke up two passes, had a sack to stop one 49ers drive, and recovered a fumble on the Saints' 13 to blunt another, as visiting New Orleans upset San Francisco 23-10.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	8	1	0
New England	6	3	0
Miami	4	5	0
Buffalo	2	7	0
Indianapolis	0	9	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cincinnati	6	3	0
Cleveland	6	3	0
Pittsburgh	3	6	0
Houston	1	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	8	1	0
Kansas City	6	3	0
L.A. Raiders	5	4	0
Seattle	5	4	0
San Diego	1	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	7	2	0
Washington	7	2	0
Dallas	6	3	0
Philadelphia	3	6	0
St. Louis	2	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	7	2	0
Minnesota	5	4	0
Detroit	3	6	0
Tampa Bay	2	7	0
Green Bay	1	8	0

NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	7	2	0
Atlanta	5	3	1
San Francisco	5	3	1
New Orleans	4	5	0

SCORES

AFC	SCORE
Cleveland 24, Indianapolis 9	
Denver 21, L.A. Raiders 10	
Kansas City 24, San Diego 23	
Miami 28, Houston 7	
N.Y. Jets 38, Seattle 7	
NFC	SCORE
L.A. Rams 20, Chicago 17	
New Orleans 23, San Francisco 10	
N.Y. Giants 17, Dallas 14	
St. Louis 13, Philadelphia 10	
Washington 44, Minnesota 38 (OT)	
Interconference	SCORE
Cincinnati 24, Detroit 7	
New England 25, Atlanta 17	
Pittsburgh 27, Green Bay 3	
Tampa Bay 34, Buffalo 28	



A Big Week for Running Backs: Brooks, Mayes, Morris All Break 100, and the Redskins Win a Wild One



Dave Cross

▲Miami's Mark Duper streaked away from Houston cornerback Patrick Allen on an 85-yard scoring pass play from Dan Marino. The Dolphins won 28-7.



Miguel Elliot

▲Cornerback Mike Harden got two of Denver's four interceptions off Marc Wilson as the Broncos (8-1) won a critical game from the Raiders 21-10.



▲James Brooks averaged eight yards a carry when he led the Cincinnati Bengals past Detroit 24-17. Brooks ran for 120 yards in 15 carries, and the Bengals improved to 6-3.



Corky Trewin

▲Freeman McNeil of the Jets strained to get away from former UCLA teammate Kenny Easley of Seattle, but he led all rushers in the game with 84 yards. New York routed the Seahawks 38-7.

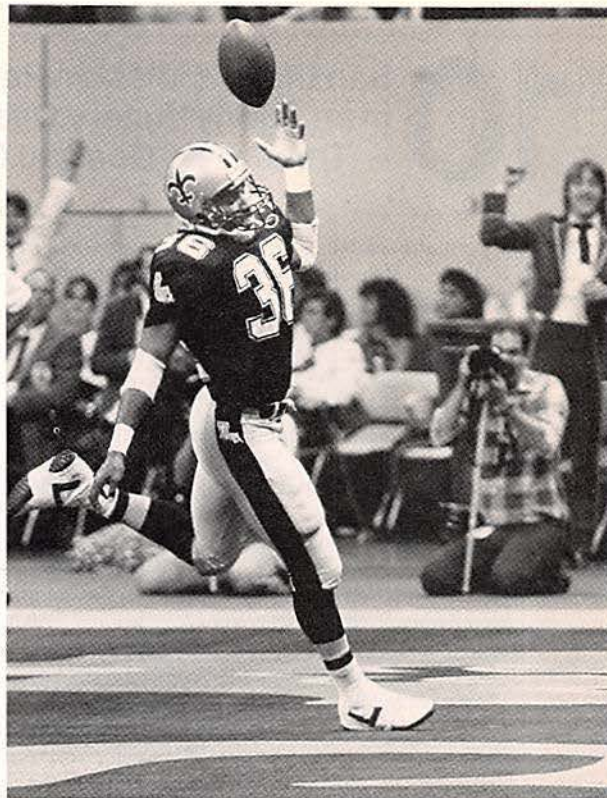


Pete J. Groh

▼Washington's Jay Schroeder (10) signaled touchdown when George Rogers scored on a 2-yard run that tied Minnesota with 1:03 left. The Redskins won 44-38 in overtime.

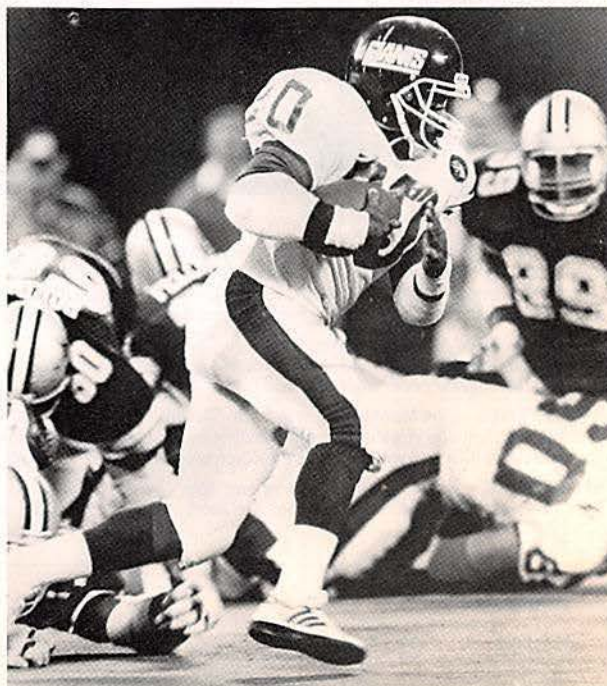


Nate Fine Productions



Tim Alexander

▲New Orleans shocked San Francisco 23-10, thanks to rookie running sensation Rueben Mayes, who scored on 4- and 27-yard touchdown runs. He totaled 128 yards.



Jim Turner

▲Joe Morris was in a rut... but what a rut! For the second successive week he ran for 181 yards and two touchdowns. His outburst led the Giants past Dallas 17-14.

WEEK 10

San Diego's Mission Pays Off in an Agony Victory Over Denver — Three Field Goals to One

It was the upset of the season.

The game matched Denver, 8-1 and playing at home, against San Diego, 1 and 8 and buried in an eight-game losing streak. The Broncos were considered more than two touchdown favorites, and that even seemed kind.

Naturally, the Chargers won.

In Al Saunders's second game as head coach, San Diego controlled the ball for 36 minutes with short runs and passes and won 9-3 on three field goals by Rolf Benirschke. On their field-goal drives, the Chargers used up more than 25 minutes.

"We were on a mission today, and there was no stopping us," said safety Vencie Glenn, whose end-zone interception of a pass by John Elway with 24 seconds left blunted Denver's last bid for victory.

Jeff Dale, Glenn's sidekick at safety, intercepted Elway twice, returning the first 39

yards to snuff out a scoring threat, and the second 50 yards to set up the final field goal.

On offense, third-string quarterback Tom Flick, who was playing in place of injured Dan Fouts and Mark Herrmann, completed 16 of 22 passes.

"Football is fun again," Flick said. "I'm euphoric."

There were two other notable upsets, as New Orleans made it four victories in five weeks by shutting out the Los Angeles Rams 6-0, and Houston, another 1-8 team, held off Cincinnati 32-28.

The Saints swarmed all over the NFL's leading rusher, Eric Dickerson of the Rams, holding him to 57 yards on 21 carries, while Morten Andersen kicked 20- and 22-yard field goals.

In Houston, the Oilers snapped their eight-game losing streak, but not without a lot of

nervous moments. Warren Moon passed for 310 yards and a touchdown and directed the Oilers to 19-0 halftime and 29-7 third-quarter leads, before Cincinnati's Boomer Esiason threw three touchdown passes, two to James Brooks, to trim the score to 29-28. Tony Zendejas kicked a 46-yard field goal, his fourth of the day, to give Houston its final margin with 26 seconds left.

The Jets remained the hottest team in the NFL and Ken O'Brien remained the hottest quarterback as New York grabbed a 28-0 lead and defeated Atlanta 28-14. It gave the Jets (9-1) eight victories in a row. O'Brien, the NFL's top-rated passer, completed 26 of 33 for 322 yards. He also broke Joe Namath's team record of 15 successive completions when he hit 17 in a row. Included in O'Brien's air assault were 46- and 16-yard touchdown passes to Wesley Walker and a 59-yarder to Al Toon, all in the second quarter when O'Brien was 13 for 13.

"Over the years I've played with a lot of quarterbacks," Walker said. "No one throws like he can."

Also throwing well was New England's Tony Eason, whose two third-quarter scoring passes pulled the visiting Patriots ahead of the winless Colts in their 30-21 defeat of Indianapolis. The Colts had assumed a 14-3 lead, but the Patriots, who won their fourth in a row, intercepted four passes by Jack Trudeau, two by linebacker Steve Nelson and two more by cornerback Ronnie Lippett.

In Dallas, Jim Plunkett (who will be 39 on December 5) rallied the Raiders when he replaced struggling Marc Wilson at quarterback to start the second half, and threw 20- and 40-yard touchdown passes to Dokie Williams, as Los Angeles beat the Cowboys 17-13.

Even a dislocated toe couldn't keep the Bears' Walter Payton from his 162nd consecutive start as he led Chicago to a 23-3 defeat of Tampa Bay. Payton ran for 139 yards and caught three passes for 69 more, including a 57-yard burst with a screen pass.

"I was in pain all day," he admitted later.

The Giants and Redskins stayed tied for first in the NFC East as New York stopped Philadelphia 17-14, and Washington slipped past Green Bay 16-7.

The Giants' Joe Morris scored two touchdowns and ran for 111 yards, his fourth successive 100-yard game. Linebacker Lawrence Taylor had three of New York's seven sacks of Eagles quarterbacks.

► **Joe Montana**, who missed eight games after back surgery, returned to throw three touchdown passes to Jerry Rice as the 49ers routed St. Louis 43-17. Montana completed 13 of 19 attempts.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Bernie Kosar



Jeff Dale



Joe Montana



Bruce Clark

AFC OFFENSE — Bernie Kosar, quarterback, Cleveland Browns

Kosar passed for 401 yards to tie Otto Graham for the second-best total in Browns history as Cleveland took over sole possession of first place in the AFC Central Division with a 26-16 defeat of Miami at Cleveland. He completed 32 of his 50 attempts, with no interceptions, and had three potential touchdown passes dropped.

AFC DEFENSE — Jeff Dale, safety, San Diego Chargers

Dale intercepted two passes, returned them 89 yards, and made three tackles to help lead the Chargers to a shocking 9-3 upset of once-beaten Denver.

NFC OFFENSE — Joe Montana, quarterback, San Francisco 49ers

Returning to the lineup less than two months after back surgery, Montana threw three touchdown passes to Jerry Rice and passed for 270 yards in all as the 49ers breezed past St. Louis 43-17 at Candlestick Park.

NFC DEFENSE — Bruce Clark, defensive end, New Orleans Saints

Clark had six tackles, including two sacks, and recovered a fumble as the resurgent Saints shut out the Los Angeles Rams 6-0.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	9	1	0
New England	7	3	0
Miami	4	6	0
Buffalo	3	7	0
Indianapolis	0	10	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cleveland	7	3	0
Cincinnati	6	4	0
Pittsburgh	3	7	0
Houston	2	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	8	2	0
Kansas City	7	3	0
L.A. Raiders	6	4	0
Seattle	5	5	0
San Diego	2	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	8	2	0
Washington	8	2	0
Dallas	6	4	0
Philadelphia	3	7	0
St. Louis	2	8	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	8	2	0
Minnesota	6	4	0
Detroit	3	7	0
Tampa Bay	2	8	0
Green Bay	1	9	0

NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	7	3	0
San Francisco	6	3	1
Atlanta	5	4	1
New Orleans	5	5	0

SCORES

AFC	SCORE
Buffalo 16, Pittsburgh 12	
Cleveland 26, Miami 16	
Houston 32, Cincinnati 28	
Kansas City 27, Seattle 7	
New England 30, Indianapolis 21	
San Diego 9, Denver 3	

NFC	SCORE
Chicago 23, Tampa Bay 3	
Minnesota 24, Detroit 10	
New Orleans 6, L.A. Rams 0	
N.Y. Giants 17, Philadelphia 14	
San Francisco 43, St. Louis 17	
Washington 16, Green Bay 7	

Interconference	SCORE
L.A. Raiders 17, Dallas 13	
N.Y. Jets 28, Atlanta 14	



The Chargers Score an Unbelievable Win, Kosar Has a Career Game, and Levy Has an Enjoyable Debut in Buffalo

►Minnesota's Anthony Carter spiked the ball after an 11-yard scoring catch, and the Vikings downed Detroit 24-10.



Pete J. Grob

►Kansas City won its fourth in a row, stopping Seattle 27-7. Nose tackle Bill Maas (63) helped hold quarterback Gale Gilbert to 140 yards passing.



John Betancourt

►Tom Flick (12), playing for injured quarterbacks Dan Fouts and Mark Herrmann, completed 16 of 22 passes and led San Diego to a startling 9-3 upset of Denver. It was the first win for new coach Al Saunders.



Miguel Elliot

►Raiders tight end Todd Christensen turned upfield against Dallas safety Vince Albritton after one of his two catches that helped his team defeat the Cowboys 17-13. Los Angeles forced six turnovers.



Corky Trevis



Dave Cross

▲The Browns' Bernie Kosar used Monday Night TV as a showcase as he threw for a career-high 401 yards in Cleveland's 26-16 defeat of Miami. Kosar completed 32 of 50 attempts, had three potential scoring passes dropped.

▼Tony Eason ran for 35 yards (high for the Patriots), passed for 240, and led New England past the winless Indianapolis Colts 30-21.



Thomas J. Croke



Robert L. Smith

◀Marv Levy (right) made his debut as Buffalo coach and directed the Bills to a 16-12 defeat of Pittsburgh. Defensive line coach Ted Cottrell congratulated him.

WEEK 11 The Saints—of All People— Apologetic Over a Victory; Patriots Steal One From Rams

You know life has done a flip-flop when the New Orleans Saints start apologizing for not winning easily enough.

At the start of the 1986 season, the Saints were the only team in the NFL that never had had a winning season. But in week 11 they raised their record to 6-5 and moved into the playoff picture with a 16-7 defeat of the St. Louis Cardinals.

The victory was the Saints' fifth in six weeks and left them just a game out of first in the NFC West as the Rams, 49ers, and Falcons all lost.

"I don't think we played up to our potential," said coach Jim Mora. "But you have to win some games when you don't play that well."

Rookie Rueben Mayes led the way for New Orleans by rushing for 131 yards, while Morten Andersen kicked three field goals.

The week's most dramatic game took place in Anaheim, where the Los Angeles Rams found a new quarterback, 6-foot, 5-inch Jim Everett, who made a dazzling NFL debut. But while the Rams were celebrating the arrival of Everett, Tony Eason and the New England Patriots stole the game 30-28.

Everett made his first pro appearance early in the second quarter with the Rams trailing 13-0. He threw three touchdown passes, including 34- and 20-yard strikes to wide receiver Henry Ellard, to give his team a 28-16 lead in the fourth quarter.

But Eason produced 58- and 87-yard scoring drives of his own, capping both with touchdown passes to wide receiver Irving Fryar.

The winning score came with no time left on the clock when Eason lobbed the ball 25 yards to the back of the end zone, where wide

receiver Stanley Morgan came out of a crowd of Patriots and Rams to tip the ball to Fryar.

The Patriots won their fifth game in a row, but remained two games behind the New York Jets in the AFC East. The Jets forced six turnovers to stop winless Indianapolis 31-16 for their ninth successive victory.

Ken O'Brien threw three touchdown passes to wide receiver Wesley Walker, while running back Freeman McNeil gained 104 yards.

It was a costly victory for New York, however, as AFC Pro Bowl defensive end Mark Gastineau became the team's fourth defensive starter to be sidelined when he hurt a knee and underwent arthroscopic surgery the day after the game, joining injured Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Mehl, Pro Bowl nose tackle Joe Klecko, and defensive end Marty Lyons.

In Washington, the San Francisco 49ers outgained the Redskins 501-266, but set a team record for penalties with 15 and lost 14-6.

A total of 100 passes were thrown, 60 by San Francisco's Joe Montana, which helped make it the longest Monday night game ever—3 hours and 53 minutes. Montana completed 33 of his 60 attempts for 441 yards, but none went for touchdowns.

Four quarterbacks threw 50 or more passes in week 11, including Dan Marino, who sized up with 39 completions in 54 attempts for 404 yards and four touchdowns to four different receivers as Miami rallied to beat Buffalo 34-24.

Denver moved two games ahead in the AFC West by brushing back a challenge for the division lead from the Kansas City Chiefs 38-17.

Punter Chris Norman threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to cornerback (that's right, cornerback) Steve Wilson on a fourth-and-19 play, and Gerald Willhite scored three touchdowns, one on a 70-yard punt return, to lead the Broncos' victory.

In Los Angeles, Jim Plunkett took over from Marc Wilson as the Raiders' starting quarterback and directed a 27-14 defeat of the Cleveland Browns, the team's seventh win in eight weeks.

Although Steve Pelluer of Dallas was sacked 11 times by the Chargers, he got up to direct the 61-yard, game-winning drive and scored the decisive touchdown with 1:37 left as the Cowboys edged San Diego 24-21. Chargers rookie defensive end Leslie O'Neal had 5 of the 11 sacks to set a club record.

► Irving Fryar clutched the winning, 25-yard touchdown pass from Tony Eason with no time left as the Patriots stunned the Rams 30-28. Teammate Stanley Morgan tipped the "Hail Mary" pass to him.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Tony Eason

Louis Breeden

Jerry Rice

Ed (Too Tall) Jones

AFC OFFENSE—Tony Eason, quarterback, New England Patriots

Eason threw a game-winning 25-yard touchdown pass with no time left as the Patriots rallied to stun the Los Angeles Rams 30-28. He also scrambled 26 yards to set up the final score, passed for one other touchdown, and completed 36 of 52 attempts (both team records) for 375 yards.

AFC DEFENSE—Louis Breeden, cornerback, Cincinnati Bengals

Breeden intercepted two passes, returning one 36 yards for a touchdown, and made four tackles as the Bengals breezed past Seattle 34-7.

NFC OFFENSE—Jerry Rice, wide receiver, San Francisco 49ers

Although the 49ers lost to Washington 14-6, Rice was spectacular, catching a team-record-equaling 12 passes for 204 yards. In the first 11 weeks, he had 61 receptions for 1,234 yards and 12 touchdowns.

NFC DEFENSE—Ed (Too Tall) Jones, end, Dallas Cowboys

Jones made 10 tackles, including three sacks of Dan Fouts, as the Cowboys rallied to defeat San Diego 24-21.

STANDINGS

AFC East
N.Y. Jets 10 1 0
New England 8 3 0
Miami 5 6 0
Buffalo 3 8 0
Indianapolis 0 11 0

AFC Central
Cincinnati 7 4 0
Cleveland 7 4 0
Pittsburgh 4 7 0
Houston 2 9 0

AFC West
Denver 9 2 0
Kansas City 7 4 0
L.A. Raiders 7 4 0
Seattle 5 6 0
San Diego 2 9 0

NFC East
N.Y. Giants 9 2 0
Washington 9 2 0
Dallas 7 4 0
Philadelphia 3 8 0
St. Louis 2 9 0

NFC Central
Chicago 9 2 0
Minnesota 6 5 0
Detroit 4 7 0
Green Bay 2 9 0
Tampa Bay 2 9 0

NFC West
L.A. Rams 7 4 0
San Francisco 6 4 1
New Orleans 6 5 0
Atlanta 5 5 1

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 34, Seattle 7
Denver 38, Kansas City 17
L.A. Raiders 27, Cleveland 14
Miami 34, Buffalo 24
N.Y. Jets 31, Indianapolis 16
Pittsburgh 21, Houston 10

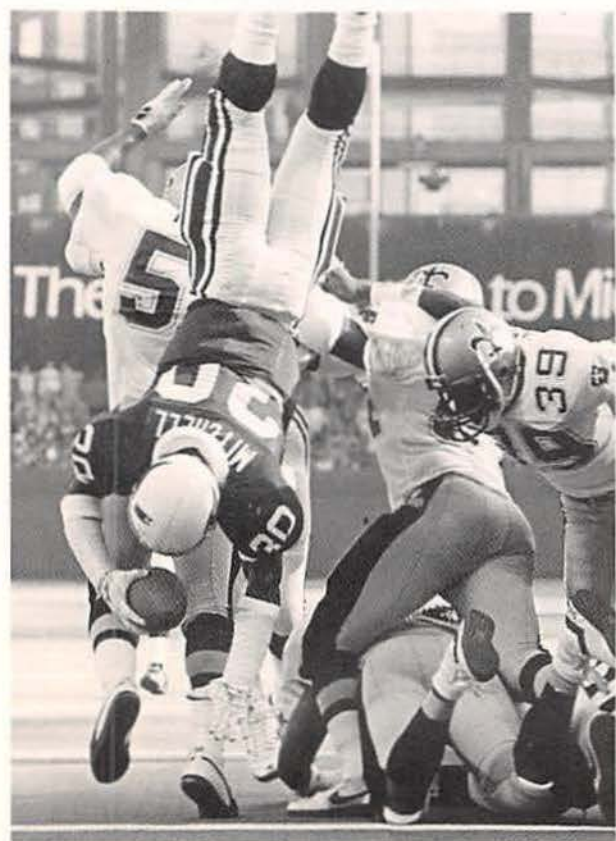
NFC
Chicago 13, Atlanta 10
Detroit 13, Philadelphia 11
Green Bay 31, Tampa Bay 7
New Orleans 16, St. Louis 7
N.Y. Giants 22, Minnesota 20
Washington 14, San Francisco 6

Interconference
Dallas 24, San Diego 21
New England 30, L.A. Rams 28



Jets' Winning Streak Hits Nine, Raiders Bomb Browns, Broncos Turn Back Chiefs, and Pelluer Is No Sad Sack

▼Stump Mitchell of St. Louis went head over heels to score on a 1-yard run against the New Orleans Saints. Despite Mitchell's acrobatics, his team lost 16-7.



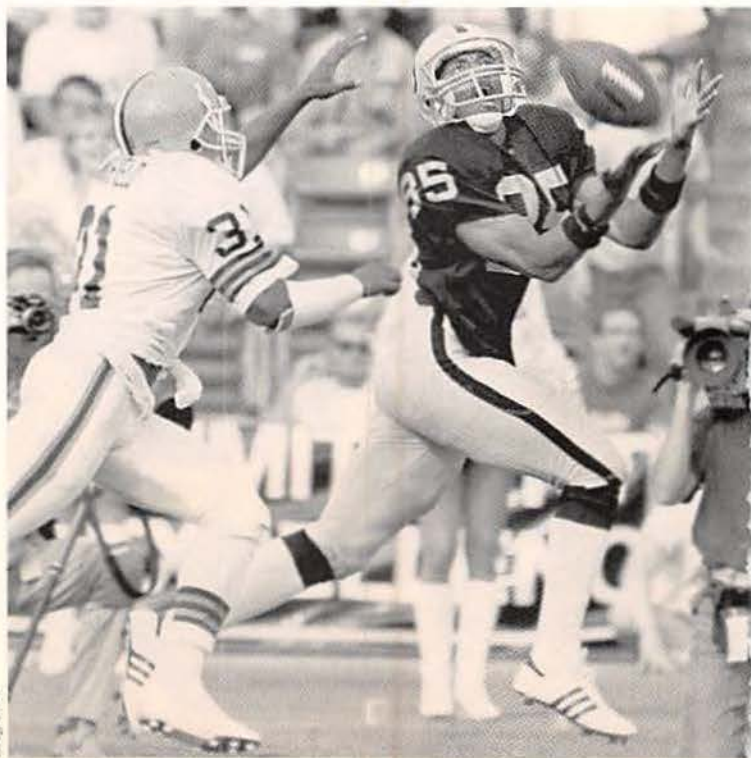
Herb Weisman

►Dokie Williams of the Raiders caught a 43-yard touchdown pass over the Browns' Frank Minnifield and also caught a 46-yarder for a score as the Raiders won 27-14.



Bill Amato

▲Steelers wide receiver John Stallworth soared in front of Houston cornerback Patrick Allen to make one of his three catches in Pittsburgh's 21-10 victory.



Greg Gava



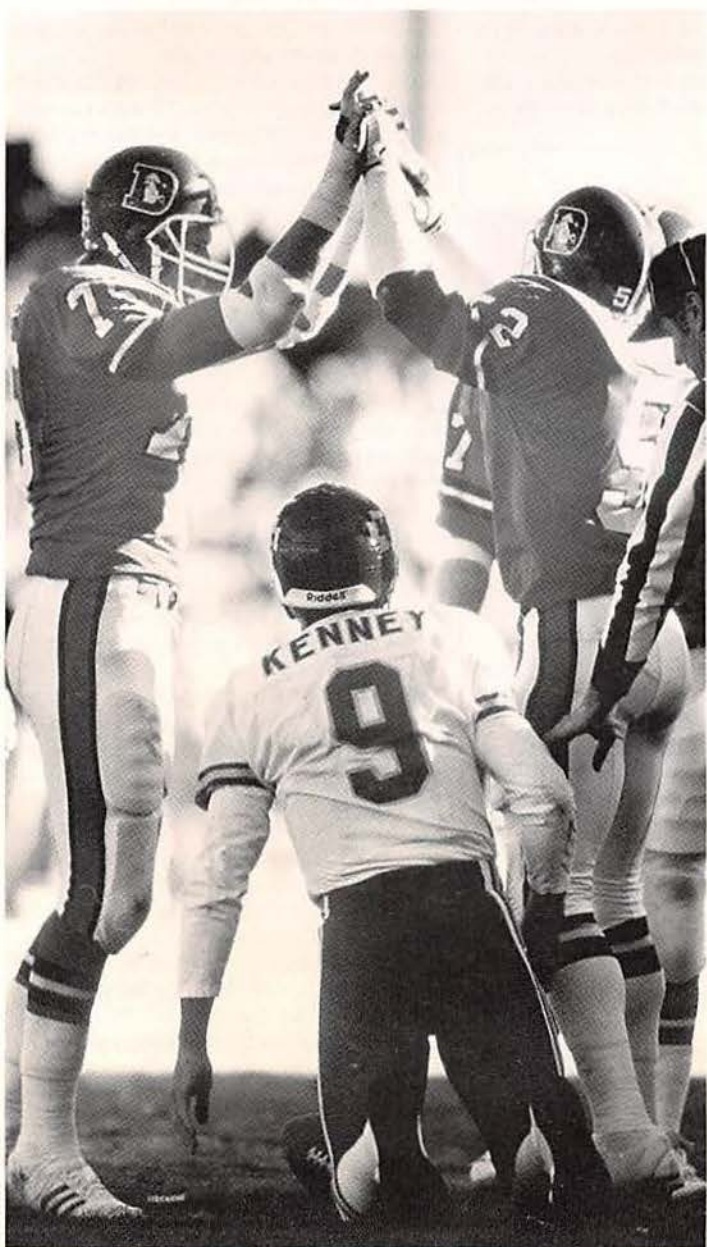
Tom Albert

▲A happy group of Lions mobbed kicker Eddie Murray (3, center), after his 41-yard field goal with 12 seconds left boosted Detroit past Philadelphia 13-11. The Lions call him "Eddie Money."



Vic Milton

▲Dallas quarterback Steve Pelluer (16) was sacked 11 times by the San Diego Chargers, but he got up long enough to rally the Cowboys to a 24-21 victory.



Ernie Leyba



Don Larson

▲Wesley Walker caught five passes from Ken O'Brien for 110 yards and three touchdowns as the Jets stopped the Colts 31-16 for their ninth win in a row. Walker beat safety Nesby Glasgow for this catch.

◀The Denver Broncos sacked Kansas City quarterback Bill Kenney five times, including one by end Rulon Jones (75, left), who celebrated with linebacker Ken Woodard. Denver turned back the Chiefs 38-17.

WEEK 12 Jets Come Apart in Mid-Air as Marino and Dolphins Cut Up a Weakened Defense

Based on his 1986 average, if Miami's Dan Marino faced the New York Jets every week of the season, he would throw 80 touchdown passes.

In September, Marino exploited New York for six scoring passes, but the Dolphins lost 51-45 in overtime.

In November, the Jets were 10-1 and zipping along on a nine-game winning streak when Marino threw four more touchdown passes as the Dolphins again scored 45 points. Shockingly, the Jets got only three in a Monday night game at Miami.

Marino's task was made easier by the absence of four Jets defensive starters, including the entire defensive line of Joe Klecko, Mark Gastineau, and Marty Lyons, and linebacker Lance Mehl. The Dolphins' quarterback was not sacked, as he completed 29 of 36 passes, with two of his four touchdown throws going

to Miami's 13-year veteran Nat Moore.

The Dolphins, last in the NFL in rushing, controlled the ball for more than 40 minutes. Miami gained 189 yards on the ground, including 148 from Lorenzo Hampton, who ran 54 yards for the game's first touchdown and scored three times.

Miami's defense, which was ranked twenty-seventh after 11 weeks, chipped in by forcing four Jets turnovers.

"I always felt we were better than our record indicated [5-6 before the game]," said Dolphins coach Don Shula. "But we never proved it. Tonight we proved it."

Suddenly, the Jets had only a one-game lead in the AFC East as the New England Patriots won their sixth in a row, coming from behind to edge luckless Buffalo.

The Bills, who trailed 15-0 at one point, went ahead 19-15 on Jim Kelly's 31-yard scor-

ing pass to running back Robb Riddick with 2:50 left. But New England's Tony Eason retaliated by completing five successive passes on a 60-yard drive, including the 13-yard game-winner with 1:40 left to rookie tight end Greg Baty.

The New York Giants and Washington Redskins stayed tied for first in the NFC East with 10-2 records. New York won the hard way, as usual, and Washington won in a surprising breeze.

The Giants made it five victories in a row—the last four by a total of 11 points—as Raul Allegre kicked a 34-yard field goal with six seconds left to beat Denver 19-16. Allegre, who kicked a 33-yarder with 12 seconds left to beat Minnesota the previous week, hit four field goals against the Broncos.

The Redskins, who had lost three in a row to Dallas, made up for a lot of frustration with a 41-14 rout of the Cowboys in RFK Stadium. At halftime, Washington led 34-0 and had a 336-43 edge in total yards.

The Los Angeles Raiders made it eight victories in the last nine weeks with a 37-31 overtime victory at San Diego. The Raiders were coasting 31-10 when Mark Herrmann came off the Chargers' bench to direct three touchdown drives for a 31-31 tie at the end of regulation.

But, 8:33 into overtime, Marcus Allen, who was running on a sore ankle, broke outside and ran through several tacklers on a 28-yard touchdown play to win it.

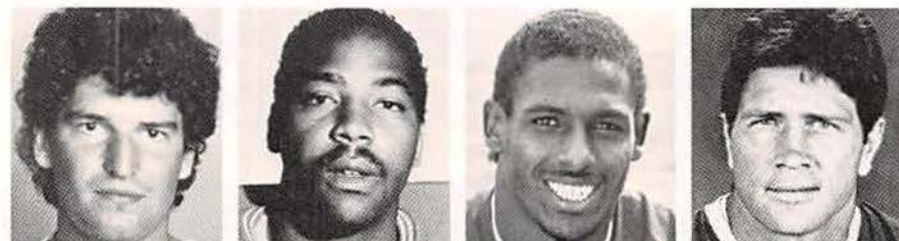
Jim Plunkett passed for 348 yards and two touchdowns. Tight end Todd Christensen caught 11 passes for 173 yards and a score. Raiders cornerback Lester Hayes blocked a punt that led to a touchdown, set up a field goal with an interception, and returned a fumble 39 yards for a score.

Injury-plagued Jim McMahon played for the first time in a month for the Chicago Bears, but they continued to struggle on offense, edging visiting Green Bay 12-10 on Kevin Butler's 32-yard field goal with 2:37 left. McMahon was reinjured when Packers nose tackle Charles Martin slammed him to the ground, was assessed a personal-foul penalty, and was ejected. McMahon was lost for the season with a shoulder injury.

The San Francisco 49ers handed Atlanta its fifth successive loss, 20-0, on Roger Craig's 101 yards rushing, Don Griffin's 76-yard scoring punt return, and Jerry Rice's thirteenth touchdown catch, a team record.

► Linebacker Fredd Young celebrated one of nine Seattle sacks of Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham. Young and end Jacob Green each had three sacks in the 24-20 victory.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Bernie Kosar

Jacob Green

Gary Clark

Nolan Cromwell

AFC OFFENSE — Bernie Kosar, quarterback, Cleveland Browns

Kosar fired a 36-yard touchdown pass to rookie wide receiver Webster Slaughter in overtime to lead the host Browns past Pittsburgh 37-31, a victory that kept the Browns tied for first in the AFC Central. Kosar completed 28 of 46 attempts for a career-high 414 yards.

AFC DEFENSE — Jacob Green, defensive end, Seattle Seahawks

Green made eight tackles, including three sacks of Randall Cunningham, as the Seahawks downed visiting Philadelphia 24-20 to snap a four-game losing streak. In all, Seattle rushers sacked Cunningham nine times.

NFC OFFENSE — Gary Clark, wide receiver, Washington Redskins

Clark caught eight passes from quarterback Jay Schroeder for 152 yards and a touchdown as the host Redskins destroyed Dallas 42-14. Schroeder passed for 325 yards.

NFC DEFENSE — Nolan Cromwell, safety, Los Angeles Rams

Cromwell intercepted two passes, forced a fumble, and made five tackles as the Rams won a 26-13 showdown with New Orleans at Anaheim Stadium. Cromwell's forced fumble and first interception set up 10 points.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	10	2	0
New England	9	3	0
Miami	6	6	0
Buffalo	3	9	0
Indianapolis	0	12	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cincinnati	8	4	0
Cleveland	8	4	0
Pittsburgh	4	8	0
Houston	3	9	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	9	3	0
L.A. Raiders	8	4	0
Kansas City	7	5	0
Seattle	6	6	0
San Diego	2	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	10	2	0
Washington	10	2	0
Dallas	7	5	0
Philadelphia	3	9	0
St. Louis	3	9	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	10	2	0
Minnesota	6	6	0
Detroit	5	7	0
Green Bay	2	10	0
Tampa Bay	2	10	0

NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	8	4	0
San Francisco	7	4	1
New Orleans	6	6	0
Atlanta	5	6	1

SCORES

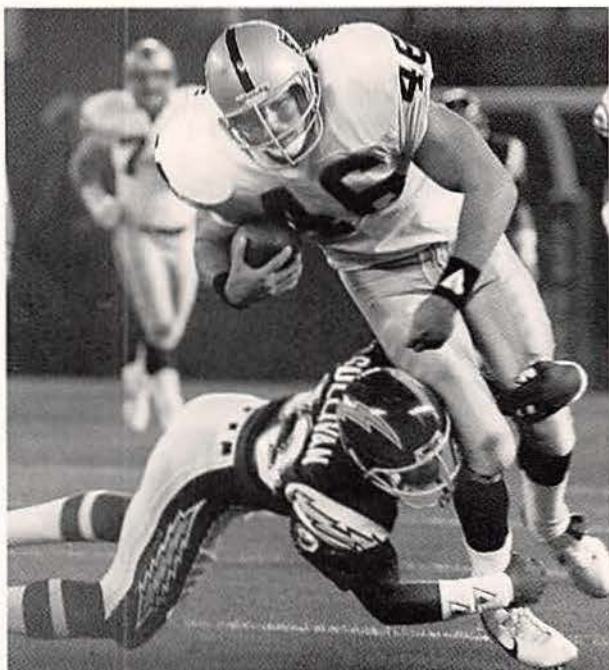
AFC	SCORE
Cleveland 37, Pittsburgh 31 (OT)	
Houston 31, Indianapolis 17	
L.A. Raiders 37, San Diego 31	
Miami 45, N.Y. Jets 3	
New England 22, Buffalo 19	

NFC	SCORE
Chicago 12, Green Bay 10	
Detroit 38, Tampa Bay 17	
L.A. Rams 26, New Orleans 13	
San Francisco 20, Atlanta 0	
Washington 41, Dallas 14	

Interconference	SCORE
Cincinnati 24, Minnesota 20	
N.Y. Giants 19, Denver 16	
St. Louis 23, Kansas City 14	
Seattle 24, Philadelphia 20	



McMahon Is Knocked Out by a Grand Slam, Martin's Interception Return Shocks Denver, and Patriots Roll On



Miguel Elliot

▲Tight end Todd Christensen drove the Chargers crazy, catching 11 passes for 173 yards in the Raiders' 37-31 overtime win at San Diego in a Thursday night game.



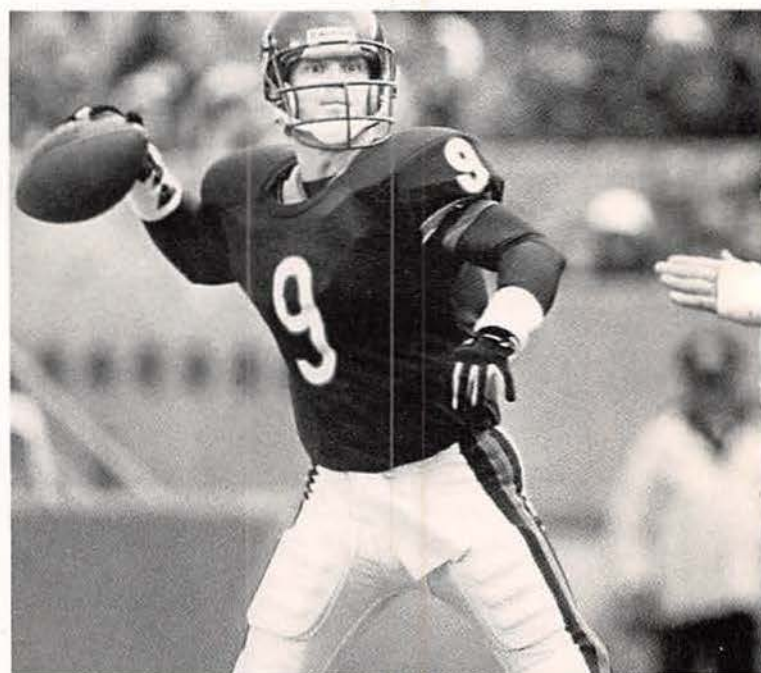
George Robarge

▲Safety Nolan Cromwell intercepted two passes, forced a fumble, and made five tackles as the Rams avenged an earlier defeat by New Orleans 26-13.



Jim Turner

▲Giants cornerback Mark Collins (25) leaped into the air when defensive end George Martin (75) scored with an intercepted pass. New York needed the touchdown to stop Denver 19-16.



▼Rookie tight end Greg Baty's 13-yard touchdown catch of a pass from Tony Eason gave New England a 22-19 victory over Buffalo with 1:40 left. It was the Patriots' sixth victory in a row.



Thomas J. Croke



◀Colts rookie wide receiver Bill Brooks (80) caught two touchdown passes from reserve quarterback Blair Kiel in the last 36 seconds against Houston, including this spectacular 37-yarder after an onside kick. The Oilers won anyway, 31-17.

Don Larson



Jonathan Daniel

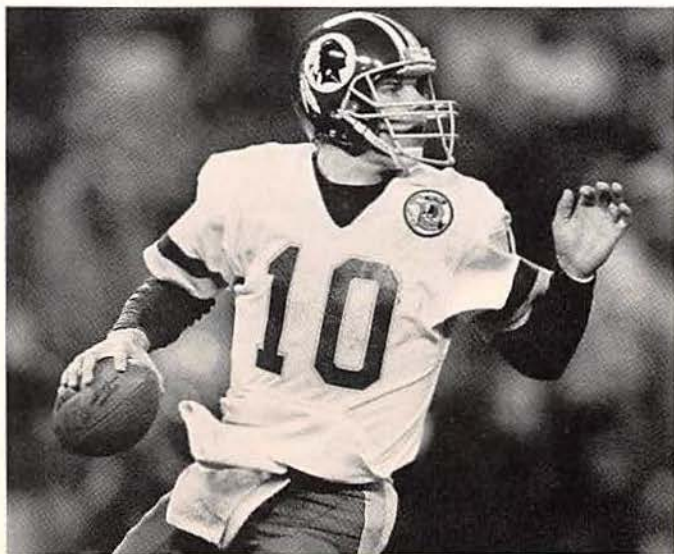
▲The Bears lost quarterback Jim McMahon for the season when Packers defensive end Charles Martin (94) slammed him to the ground, was penalized, ejected, and later suspended.



Michael Zagars

▲Rookie Don Griffin of the 49ers held the ball up to celebrate his 76-yard, second-quarter scoring punt return against Atlanta. San Francisco won 20-0.

◀Washington's Jay Schroeder missed a day of practice with a bad back, but came back to pass for 325 yards and two touchdowns in a 41-14 shelling of Dallas.



George Coykovich

WEEK 13 Traffic-Beaters Take Heavy Pounding as Browns, Bears, and Eagles All Win in Overtime

They say games aren't over until they're over, but in week 13, they sure took a long time getting over.

Three of them were won in overtime and four others were decided in the last two minutes. In other words, not many people left early to beat the traffic.

The Browns, Bears, and Eagles were the overtime winners. Cleveland definitely was getting the hang of it. The Browns' 13-10 defeat of the visiting Houston Oilers was their second overtime victory in a row. It also left Cleveland all alone in first place in the AFC Central.

The Browns won the game when 38-year-old Mark Moseley, who had been waived earlier in the season by the Washington Redskins, kicked a 29-yard field goal into a stiff wind with just 16 seconds left in the extra period. It was the fifth overtime field goal of his

career, extending his NFL record.

Moseley was signed by the Browns the week before the game to replace injured Matt Bahr after owner Art Modell saw him interviewed on "The NFL Today," and said, in effect, "Hey, there's our kicker."

Cleveland intercepted a total of six passes by Warren Moon and Oliver Luck, two each by cornerbacks Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield. Minnifield's 20-yard return set up the winning kick.

In Los Angeles, the Raiders also were on the verge of their second overtime victory in a row as they lined up on the Philadelphia 16 with the score tied 27-27. But Marcus Allen, whose 27-yard catch had carried the Raiders downfield, fumbled on a running play called to set up a field-goal attempt.

The ball hopped into the hands of Eagles safety Andre Waters, who took it 81 yards to

the Los Angeles 4. On second down, quarterback Randall Cunningham sneaked a yard for the touchdown that won the game 33-27.

Cunningham also threw three touchdown passes to wide receiver Mike Quick (62, 5, and 10 yards), despite being sacked 10 times.

The third sudden-death game of the day occurred in Chicago, where the Bears edged Pittsburgh 13-10 on Kevin Butler's 42-yard field goal 3:55 into the fifth quarter. Earlier, Butler had missed a field goal from 28 yards with 50 seconds left in regulation, setting up the overtime.

The Bears, who learned earlier in the week that quarterback Jim McMahon would be out for the season, clinched the NFC Central Division title with the victory. It was Pittsburgh's second loss in a row in—you guessed it—overtime.

A Bears fan, frustrated that his team had scored 13 points or less in five of seven games, hung a sign in Soldier Field that read: "Offense, We're Going to the Super Bowl. Are You Coming?"

The New York Giants and Washington Redskins, tied at 11-2 in the NFC East, set up a fourteenth-week showdown with narrow victories.

The Giants fell behind the San Francisco 49ers 17-0 at halftime, but scored a fast and furious 21 points in the third quarter and hung on for a 21-17 victory. It was the Giants' sixth straight triumph—by a total of 22 points.

New York's Phil Simms threw touchdown passes to running back Joe Morris and wide receiver Stacy Robinson, then hit Robinson with a 49-yard bomb to the 49ers' 1 to set up the winning score.

Playing without running back George Rogers and several other offensive starters, the Redskins got a surprising battle from St. Louis and finally edged the host Cardinals 20-17 when Max Zendejas made a 27-yard field goal with just four seconds left. It was Washington's fifth consecutive victory.

In another wild finish, New England moved into a first-place tie with the New York Jets in the AFC East with a 21-20 come-from-behind victory at New Orleans, the Patriots' seventh win in a row. Saints rookie Rueben Mayes rushed for 157 yards in the loss.

At the Meadowlands, the Los Angeles Rams moved a game and a half ahead in the NFC West with an impressive 17-3 victory over the Jets, who were held to only a field goal for the second successive game.

► Mark Moseley kicked a 29-yard field goal with 16 seconds left in overtime to boost Cleveland past Houston 13-10. Released by the Redskins, Moseley was signed the previous Wednesday.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



John Elway



Charles Romes



Walter Stanley



Andre Waters

AFC OFFENSE—John Elway, quarterback, Denver Broncos

Shrugging off a weekend rumor that he had a broken arm, Elway fired three touchdown passes in the second quarter and completed 22 of 34 overall, with no interceptions, as Denver defeated visiting Cincinnati 34-28.

AFC DEFENSE—Charles Romes, cornerback, Buffalo Bills

Romes stopped two Kansas City drives with interceptions in the end zone, the second with only 4:04 left in the game, and made two tackles, as the Bills edged the Chiefs 17-14 to snap their 22-game road losing streak.

NFC OFFENSE—Walter Stanley, wide receiver, Green Bay Packers

Stanley had a hand in 31 points, leading the Packers to a wild 44-40 Thanksgiving Day victory. He won the game by returning a punt 83 yards for a touchdown with 41 seconds left. He also caught 21- and 36-yard touchdown passes, set up another touchdown with a 62-yard catch, and set up a field goal with a 30-yard punt return.

NFC DEFENSE—Andre Waters, safety, Philadelphia Eagles

Waters returned a fumble 81 yards in overtime to set up the winning touchdown in the Eagles' 33-27 surprise of the host Los Angeles Raiders. He also intercepted a pass to stop a Raiders' drive and made nine tackles.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	3	0
N.Y. Jets	10	3	0
Miami	6	7	0
Buffalo	4	9	0
Indianapolis	0	13	0
AFC Central	W	L	T
Cleveland	9	4	0
Cincinnati	8	5	0
Pittsburgh	4	9	0
Houston	3	10	0
AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	10	3	0
L.A. Raiders	8	5	0
Kansas City	7	6	0
Seattle	7	6	0
San Diego	3	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	11	2	0
Washington	11	2	0
Dallas	7	6	0
Philadelphia	4	9	0
St. Louis	3	10	0
NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	11	2	0
Minnesota	7	6	0
Detroit	5	8	0
Green Bay	3	10	0
Tampa Bay	2	11	0
NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	9	4	0
San Francisco	7	5	1
Atlanta	6	6	1
New Orleans	6	7	0

SCORES

AFC	NFC
Buffalo 17, Kansas City 14	Green Bay 44, Detroit 40
Cleveland 13, Houston 10 (OT)	Minnesota 45, Tampa Bay 13
Denver 34, Cincinnati 28	N.Y. Giants 21, San Francisco 17
San Diego 17, Indianapolis 3	Washington 20, St. Louis 17
Interconference	
Atlanta 20, Miami 14	
Chicago 13, Pittsburgh 10 (OT)	
L.A. Rams 17, N.Y. Jets 3	
New England 21, New Orleans 20	
Philadelphia 33, L.A. Raiders 27 (OT)	
Seattle 31, Dallas 14	



Giants Overtake 49ers, Bears Sneak By in Overtime, Patriots Win on a Fumble, and Raiders Give One Away



Thomas J. Croke

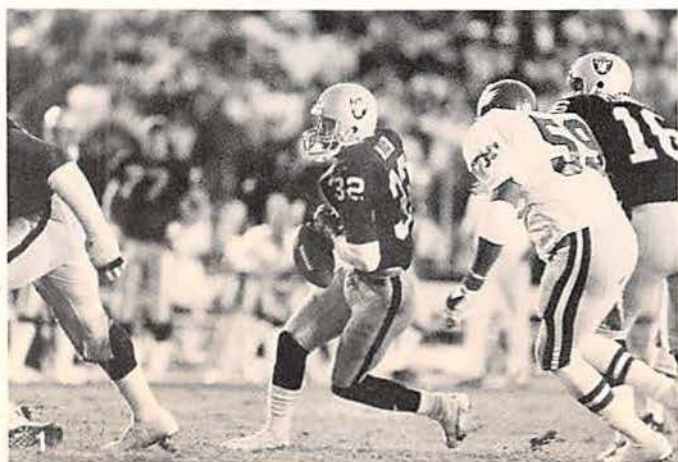
▲Only 1:49 remained in the game when rookie defensive end Brent Williams of New England ran 21 yards to score with a recovered fumble, clinching a 21-20 victory over New Orleans.

▼The Raiders were on the Eagles' 16-yard line, driving for the winning field goal in overtime, when Marcus Allen (photograph 1) fumbled just before being hit by linebacker Seth Joyner (2). Helplessly, Allen watched the ball roll away (3). Safety Andre Waters (4) scooped it up and ran 81 yards to the Los Angeles 4-yard line. Randall Cunningham scored from the 1, and Philadelphia won 33-27.

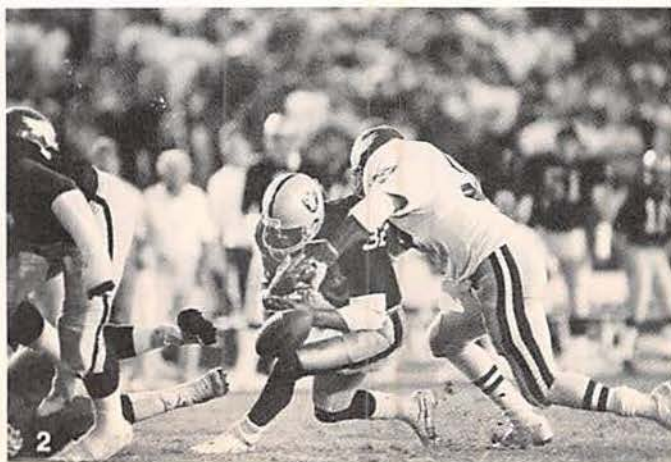


Dave Cross

▲Atlanta snapped its five-game losing streak, thanks to a big game from Gerald Riggs, who ran for 172 yards and a touchdown against Miami. The Falcons also intercepted four passes by Dan Marino in winning 20-14.



Greg Gava





Michael Zagari

▲ Tight end Mark Bavaro caught seven passes and dragged would-be tacklers, such as all-pro Ronnie Lott (42), all over Candlestick Park as he and the Giants rallied to defeat the 49ers 21-17. San Francisco led 17-0 at halftime.



Jonathan Daniel

▲ Linebacker Wilber Marshall sacked Mark Malone and had eight solo tackles as the Bears edged Pittsburgh 13-10 in overtime.



Corky Trevis

▲ Herschel Walker of Dallas is outnumbered and overwhelmed short of the goal line by Seattle's defense. The Seahawks won 31-14.



George Ruhnke



WEEK 14

The Strange Feeling of Victory Finally Comes Over the Colts, With a Lot of Help From Falcons

Twenty seconds remained on the clock, and the Indianapolis Colts were that much time away from still another loss. The NFL's only winless team was 0-13 and headed for 0-14.

Leading 23-21, the Atlanta Falcons sent Rick Donnelly back to punt. Nice idea, poor execution.

Flashing into the backfield, Colts safety Tate Randle blocked the punt. The ball was scooped up by cornerback Eugene Daniel, who carried it 13 yards for the winning touchdown. In one swoop, the visiting Colts had shocked the Falcons 28-23, eliminated them from the playoffs, and given new coach Ron Meyer a victory in his debut.

"It was a lot of fun," Meyer said. "I'm glad the players finally had the experience of good things happening to them."

The Los Angeles Raiders were victims of a Monday Night Massacre—a humbling 37-0

loss to the Seattle Seahawks in the Kingdome.

The Seahawks, who have beaten the Raiders five successive times in Seattle, rushed three Los Angeles quarterbacks off their collective feet for a team-record 11 sacks. The Seahawks outgained the Raiders 407-138, handing them their first shutout in five years and their worst loss since 1962. Curt Warner rushed for 116 yards and two touchdowns, Dave Krieg threw for 243 yards and two touchdowns, and Norm Johnson kicked field goals of 53, 51, and 46 yards.

In the nation's capital, the New York Giants ran their winning streak to seven in a row, longest in the NFL, as they broke a deadlock for first in the NFC East by dominating Washington 24-14.

Phil Simms threw three touchdown passes for New York, but the Giants' defense controlled the game as six different players inter-

cepted passes from Jay Schroeder. When Schroeder wasn't being picked off, he was being picked up. Linebacker Lawrence Taylor sacked him three times and knocked him down on several other occasions just as he got the ball away.

The loss marred a strong performance by Redskins running back Kelvin Bryant, who caught 13 passes for 130 yards, rushed six times for 50 more, and scored twice.

After 14 weeks, the Giants and Chicago Bears had the best records in the league at 12-2. The Bears routed Tampa Bay 48-14 for their fifth successive victory.

At Chicago, it was quarterback by committee, as Mike Tomczak played in the first and third periods, and NFL rookie Doug Flutie appeared in the second and fourth. Each passed for a touchdown and ran for one.

Rams cornerback LeRoy Irvin raced 50 yards for a touchdown with a first-quarter interception of a pass by Steve Pelluer, and host Los Angeles went on to pound Dallas 29-10 at Anaheim. It was the Cowboys' fifth loss in six weeks.

Eric Dickerson ran for 106 yards for the Rams, while rookie Jim Everett threw for 212 yards and a touchdown.

Al Saunders, who took over for Don Coryell as coach of the Chargers in week 9, continued to do an outstanding job as his team throttled visiting Houston 27-0. San Diego's first shutout since 1979 gave Saunders a 3-3 record as coach; the three losses have been by a total of 10 points.

The Chargers' Dan Fouts reached another milestone, becoming only the third NFL quarterback to surpass 40,000 passing yards. His total of 250 in the game gave him 40,050. Fran Tarkenton (47,003) and Johnny Unitas (40,239) were the all-time leaders.

In New Orleans, Saints rookie-of-the-year candidate Rueben Mayes rushed for 203 yards and scored on runs of 20 and 34 yards, but Miami took a 31-10 halftime lead and held on to win 31-27. The Dolphins' Dan Marino completed 27 of 41 passes for 241 yards and three touchdowns.

The Kansas City Chiefs intercepted four passes by John Elway and sacked him five times, shocking Denver 37-10 at Kansas City. Safety Lloyd Burruss returned another interception, this time off Elway's backup, Gary Kubiak, for 72 yards. It was Burruss's third interception runback for a touchdown this season.

► **Indianapolis (0-13) finally won a game when safety Tate Randle blocked this punt by Atlanta's Rick Donnelly, and cornerback Eugene Daniel took the ball 13 yards for the winning touchdown.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



James Brooks



Art Still



Brad Benson



Leonard Smith

AFC OFFENSE—James Brooks, running back, Cincinnati Bengals

Brooks gained 264 yards in total offense as visiting Cincinnati snapped New England's seven-game winning streak 31-7. The Bengals' running back rushed for 163 yards, including a 56-yard touchdown, and caught six passes for another 101 yards. Teammate Stanley Wilson, meanwhile, ran for 120 yards of his own.

AFC DEFENSE—Art Still, defensive end, Kansas City Chiefs

Still made six tackles, including an 18-yard sack of John Elway, and broke up a pass as Kansas City surprised Denver 37-10.

NFC OFFENSE—Brad Benson, tackle, New York Giants

The first offensive lineman ever chosen player of the week, Benson blocked NFL sack leader Dexter Manley of Washington one-on-one and held him to three tackles and no sacks as the Giants won 24-14.

NFC DEFENSE—Leonard Smith, safety, St. Louis Cardinals

Smith made a career-high 20 tackles, including 15 solos, had two of his team's 10 sacks, and deflected a pass as the Cardinals and Philadelphia Eagles fought to a 10-10 overtime tie at Philadelphia.

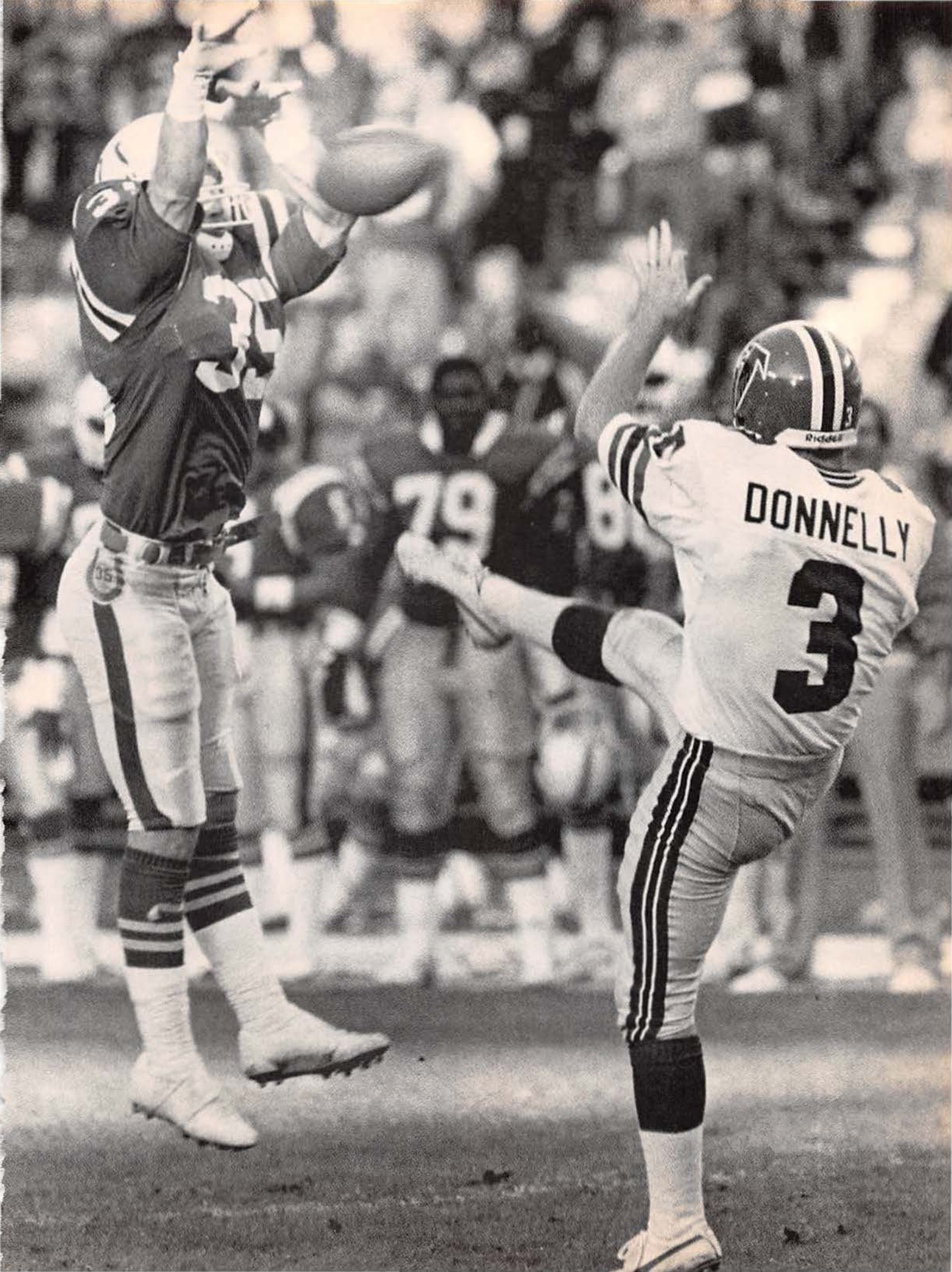
STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	4	0
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0
Miami	7	7	0
Buffalo	4	10	0
Indianapolis	1	13	0
AFC Central	W	L	T
Cleveland	10	4	0
Cincinnati	9	5	0
Pittsburgh	5	9	0
Houston	3	11	0
AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	10	4	0
Kansas City	8	6	0
L.A. Raiders	8	6	0
Seattle	8	6	0
San Diego	4	10	0

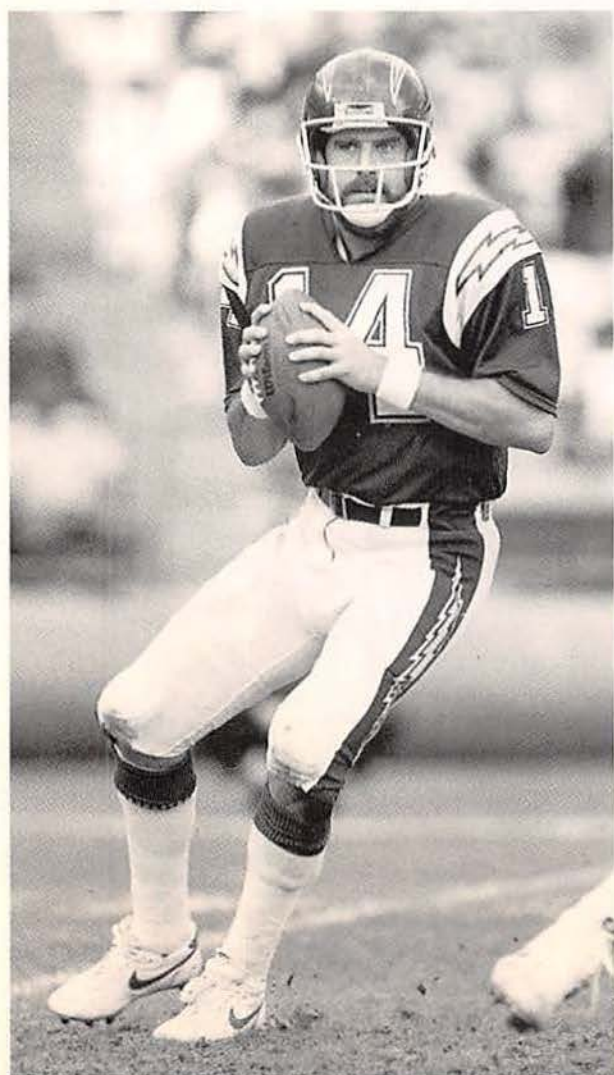
NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	12	2	0
Washington	11	3	0
Dallas	7	7	0
Philadelphia	4	9	1
St. Louis	3	10	1
NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	12	2	0
Minnesota	8	6	0
Detroit	5	9	0
Green Bay	3	11	0
Tampa Bay	2	12	0
NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	10	4	0
San Francisco	8	5	1
Atlanta	6	7	1
New Orleans	6	8	0

SCORES

AFC	SCORE
Cincinnati 31, New England 7	
Cleveland 21, Buffalo 17	
Kansas City 37, Denver 10	
San Diego 27, Houston 0	
Seattle 37, L.A. Raiders 0	
NFC	SCORE
Chicago 48, Tampa Bay 14	
L.A. Rams 29, Dallas 10	
Minnesota 32, Green Bay 6	
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 14	
St. Louis 10, Philadelphia 10 (OT)	
Interconference	SCORE
Pittsburgh 27, Detroit 17	
Indianapolis 28, Atlanta 23	
Miami 31, New Orleans 27	
San Francisco 24, N.Y. Jets 10	



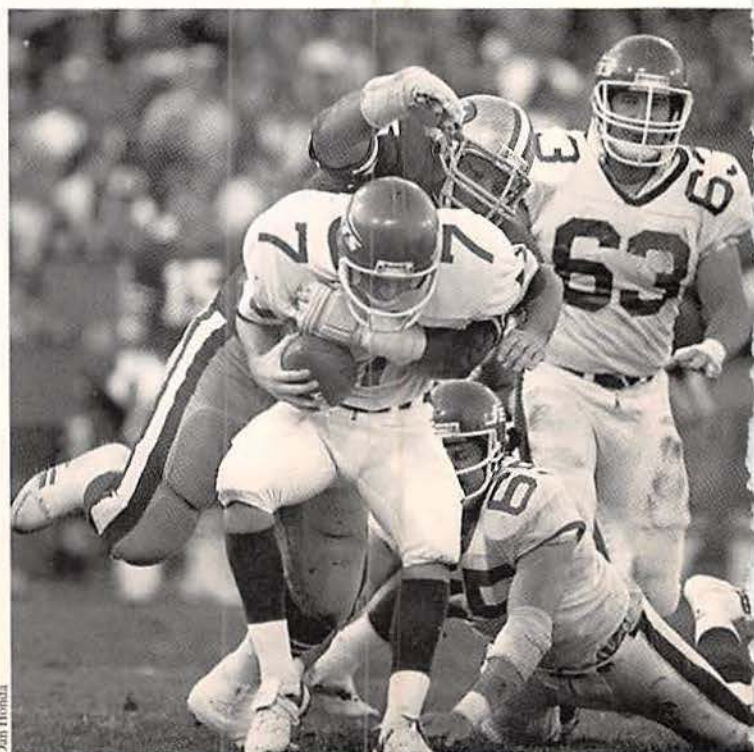
**Fouts Is the NFL's Third
40,000-Yard Man, but It's a Bad
Week for Quarterbacks O'Brien,
Schroeder, and Pelluer**



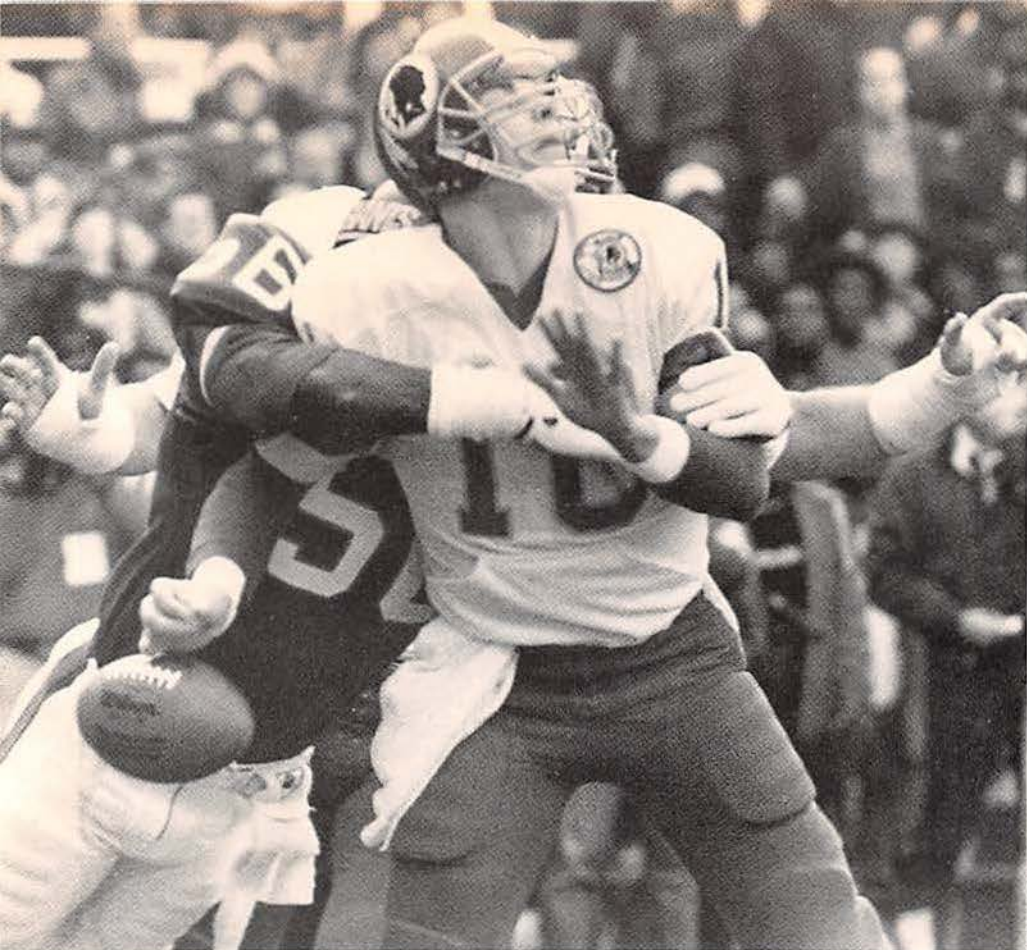
▲San Diego's Dan Fouts joined Fran Tarkenton and Johnny Unitas with 40,000 career passing yards, when he threw for 250 in a 27-0 defeat of Houston.



▲On a cold day in Buffalo, Cleveland stayed atop the AFC Central Division as precocious Bernie Kosar passed for 240 yards and a touchdown in a 21-17 defeat of the Bills.



▲The Jets, once the hottest team in the NFL, continued to sink in the AFC East. Ken O'Brien (7) was sacked four times and threw three interceptions in a 24-10 loss to the San Francisco 49ers.



Ralph Wadlawicz

▲Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor blindsided Washington quarterback Jay Schroeder, forcing a fumble in New York's 24-14 victory. Taylor sacked Schroeder three times, and the Giants took over first place in the NFC East with a 12-2 record.



Bob Rosato

▲Cincinnati outran New England 31-7, helped by 120 yards rushing from Stanley Wilson.



Jonathan Daniel

▲The Bears routed Tampa Bay 48-14 as Doug Flutie (2) and Mike Tomczak alternated at quarterback. Flutie passed for one touchdown and ran for another.



Jim Chaffin

▲Nose tackle Shawn Miller wrapped his arms around Steve Pelluer for one of five Rams sacks of the Dallas quarterback in a 29-10 Los Angeles victory. The loss was the Cowboys' third in a row.

WEEK 15

Home Cookin' Doesn't Sit Well With Most NFL Teams, but Broncos, Giants, Browns Clinch

It was a week when home, sweet home, was anything but sweet. Ten of the NFL's 14 home teams lost, but one of the four winners, Denver, clinched two division titles with one victory.

On Saturday, the Broncos slipped by the Washington Redskins 31-30 to wrap up the AFC West crown. The victory also assured the Redskins of second place in the NFC East and clinched the title for the New York Giants.

The Giants, who played the next day at home, won anyway, rolling past the St. Louis Cardinals 27-7.

The Cleveland Browns, meanwhile, became the weekend's third division winner, hammering the Cincinnati Bengals 34-3 in Cincinnati to guarantee the top spot in the AFC Central.

In Denver, the Broncos fell behind the Red-

skins 13-0 in the second quarter before John Elway ignited their comeback. The gifted Denver quarterback passed for 282 yards, ran 11 yards for a touchdown, and threw 19 to Steve Watson for another. Sammy Winder ran for two more Broncos scores. On defense, cornerback Mike Harden intercepted two passes to set up 10 points.

The difference in the game, however, was a missed extra point by Max Zendejas after Washington's first touchdown.

The Giants remained the NFL's hottest team as they turned Joe Morris and their defense loose on the Cardinals. Morris ran for 179 yards and three touchdowns, and had non-scoring runs of 49 and 54 yards. The big day increased his season total to 1,401 yards, breaking his own Giants record of 1,336.

New York's defense sacked St. Louis quarterback Neil Lomax nine times. With a game

left, the Giants had won eight in a row and were 13-1 since losing the first game of the season.

In stunning the Bengals, who were bidding for a share of first place, the Browns avenged an earlier 30-13 loss to Cincinnati and won their fourth in a row.

On the game's first play, quarterback Bernie Kosar threw 66 yards to wide receiver Reggie Langhorne to set up the first of Kevin Mack's two 1-yard scoring runs. Later in the opening quarter, Kosar threw a 47-yard touchdown pass to rookie Webster Slaughter.

The New York Jets, who had a 10-1 record after 11 weeks, lost their fourth in a row, this time 45-24 to Pittsburgh. Ken O'Brien was intercepted three times for the second week in succession, and Steelers cornerback Lupe Sanchez returned one of them 67 yards for a touchdown.

Pittsburgh running back Walter Abercrombie scored three touchdowns, and his sidekick, Earnest Jackson, rushed for 101 yards.

The Jets and New England Patriots remained tied for first in the AFC East, however, when the Patriots lost their second in a row, this one 29-24 to the San Francisco 49ers.

The Seattle Seahawks continued their late-season playoff drive by flying past the host San Diego Chargers 34-24 for their fourth straight. Dave Krieg directed the air assault, throwing for 305 yards and four touchdowns. Krieg, who hit 15 of 21 in the game, completed all 10 of his second-half attempts.

Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent caught six passes for 96 yards and two touchdowns to become only the third receiver to surpass 11,000 career yards (11,028). San Diego's still-active Charlie Joiner (12,070) and Don Maynard (11,834) are the others.

Ron Meyer (2-0) remained the only unbeaten coach in the NFL this year as the Indianapolis Colts overcame a 14-0 deficit to stop visiting Buffalo 24-14 behind a big game from quarterback Gary Hogeboom—318 yards passing, two touchdown throws, and one touchdown run.

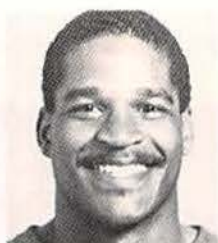
Herschel Walker of Dallas set a club rushing-receiving record when he gained 292 yards (122 rushing on six carries, 170 receiving on nine catches), but Dallas lost 23-21 to the visiting Philadelphia Eagles. Walker ran 84 yards for one touchdown, and took a short pass from Steve Pelluer 84 yards for another.

► John Elway passed for 282 yards and a touchdown and ran 11 yards for another score as he rallied Denver to a 31-30 victory over Washington. The Broncos clinched the AFC West with the win.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Dan Marino



Deron Cherry



Roger Craig



Reggie White

AFC OFFENSE—Dan Marino, quarterback, Miami Dolphins

Marino passed for 403 yards and five touchdowns to lead the Dolphins to a 37-31 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in overtime at Anaheim. He completed 29 of 46 passes, including the game-winning 20-yard pitch to Mark Duper, 3:04 into overtime. Marino also threw 69- and 5-yard scoring passes to Duper.

AFC DEFENSE—Deron Cherry, safety, Kansas City Chiefs

Cherry moved into a tie for the NFL lead in interceptions with nine when he picked off two in the Chiefs' 20-17 defeat of the host Los Angeles Raiders. The Kansas City safety also made six tackles.

NFC OFFENSE—Roger Craig, running back, San Francisco 49ers

Craig rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown and caught six passes for 89 more yards in the 49ers' 29-24 victory at New England. Teammate Joe Cribbs added 107 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

NFC DEFENSE—Reggie White, defensive end, Philadelphia Eagles

White had four solo tackles—three of them sacks—and forced a fumble as the Eagles upset the Dallas Cowboys 23-21 in Texas Stadium. The three sacks gave White 17 for the season, a club record.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	5	0
N.Y. Jets	10	5	0
Miami	8	7	0
Buffalo	4	11	0
Indianapolis	2	13	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cleveland	11	4	0
Cincinnati	9	6	0
Pittsburgh	6	9	0
Houston	4	11	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	11	4	0
Kansas City	9	6	0
Seattle	9	6	0
L.A. Raiders	8	7	0
San Diego	4	11	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	13	2	0
Washington	11	4	0
Dallas	7	8	0
Philadelphia	5	9	1
St. Louis	3	11	1

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	13	2	0
Minnesota	8	7	0
Detroit	5	10	0
Green Bay	4	11	0
Tampa Bay	2	13	0

NFC West	W	L	T
L.A. Rams	10	5	0
San Francisco	9	5	1
New Orleans	7	8	0
Atlanta	6	8	1

SCORES

AFC	Score
Cleveland 34, Cincinnati 3	
Indianapolis 24, Buffalo 14	
Kansas City 20, L.A. Raiders 17	
Pittsburgh 45, N.Y. Jets 24	
Seattle 34, San Diego 24	
NFC	Score
Chicago 16, Detroit 13	
Green Bay 21, Tampa Bay 7	
New Orleans 16, Atlanta 10	
N.Y. Giants 27, St. Louis 7	
Philadelphia 23, Dallas 21	
Interconference	Score
Denver 31, Washington 30	
Houston 16, Minnesota 10	
Miami 37, L.A. Rams 31 (OT)	
San Francisco 29, New England 24	



Browns Clinch Title, Marino Outscores Rams, Raiders Roll an Unlucky Seven, and Largent Passes Another Milestone



Pete J. Greb

▲ Cornerback Hanford Dixon had one of Cleveland's two interceptions as the Browns clinched the AFC Central Division title with a 34-3 rout of Cincinnati. Dixon helped hold Cincinnati wide receivers to just five total catches for 55 yards.



Michael Zagaris

▲ Roger Craig, hampered early in the year by injuries, was healthy as he ran for 86 yards and caught six passes in the 49ers' 29-24 defeat of New England.



Danman Sirohmeyer

▲ Steve Largent eluded cornerback Daniel Hunter to catch a six-yard scoring pass in Seattle's 34-24 win at San Diego. He also became the third NFL receiver in history to surpass 11,000 yards.



Pete J. Greb

▲ Rookie quarterback Chuck Long led the Lions to a 13-3 lead over the Bears going into the fourth quarter. But Chicago, which sacked Long six times (two by linebacker Wilber Marshall, 58), rallied to win 16-13.



David Boss

▲ Dino Hackett (56), Lloyd Burruss (34), and the rest of the Kansas City defense smothered Marcus Allen and the Raiders, forcing seven turnovers in the Chiefs' 20-17 victory. It was the Raiders' third successive loss.

▼ Mark Duper sailed above LeRoy Irvin to catch Dan Marino's 20-yard overtime touchdown pass. It was Marino's fifth scoring throw of the day, as Miami stopped the Rams 37-31.



George Rose

▼ Linebacker Mike Merriweather intercepted a pass and made 11 tackles in Pittsburgh's 45-24 defeat of the collapsing Jets.



Paul Spinelli

WEEK 16

49ers, Patriots Give Themselves Early Christmas Presents —Divisional Championships

The four-day Christmas weekend still was a week away, but the NFL wound up the regular season with a four-day weekend celebration of its own. The final round of games stretched from Friday night through Monday night.

To begin it on Friday, the fast-finishing San Francisco 49ers dominated the Los Angeles Rams from beginning to end at Candlestick Park, winning 24-14 to take the NFC West championship and send the Rams off to Washington to play the NFC Wild Card Game.

To end it on Monday, Steve Grogan came off the bench to lead the New England Patriots to an exciting 34-27 win over Miami that gave the Patriots the AFC East title. It marked the final Dolphins game at the Orange Bowl.

Week 16 also contained victories by both the New York Giants and Chicago Bears, who wound up with pacesetter 14-2 records and

nine- and seven-game winning streaks, respectively.

In winning the NFC West, the 49ers rolled over the Rams behind Joe Montana's two touchdown passes and an unyielding defense. San Francisco outgained Los Angeles 354-86 in the first three quarters. The 49ers' defense limited NFL rushing leader Eric Dickerson to 68 yards, while rookie cornerback Tim McCyer intercepted two passes and set up a touchdown.

"I think we shocked them," said 49ers linebacker Riki Ellison. "I've never seen this team so excited."

Also excited were the New England Patriots, who had to win at Miami for only the second time since 1966 or be eliminated from the playoffs. They did it behind Grogan, who entered the game early in the second quarter when starter Tony Eason injured his shoulder.

Grogan won the game with a 31-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Stanley Morgan with 44 seconds left, breaking a 27-27 tie. Morgan also caught a touchdown pass from Eason and had 8 receptions for 145 yards.

Grogan, who hadn't taken a snap in practice all week, passed for 226 yards and two touchdowns, and ran seven yards for a third.

"It was an absolutely incredible job by Steve," said Patriots coach Raymond Berry. "We had been preparing Tony Eason exclusively. It defies any reason that Steve would be able to do this."

Grogan had to be sharp because Miami's Dan Marino threw three touchdown passes, including two to wide receiver Mark Clayton. Marino finished the year with NFL single-season records for passes attempted (623) and completed (378) and also had 44 touchdown passes, second only to his own NFL record of 48, set in 1984.

The Patriots' victory eliminated Cincinnati (10-6) from the playoffs, despite the Bengals' impressive 52-21 dismantling of the New York Jets. The Jets, who once were 10-1, lost their last five games.

Despite their late-season collapse, the Jets would host the Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC Wild Card Game.

The Chiefs made the playoffs for the first time since 1971, thanks to a brilliant special teams performance. Pittsburgh outgained Kansas City 515-171, but still lost 24-19.

Kansas City's special teams scored all three of its touchdowns. Safety Deron Cherry recovered a blocked punt in the end zone, Boyce Green returned a kickoff 97 yards, and safety Lloyd Burruss took a blocked field goal back 78 yards.

Seattle (10-6) finished with a five-game winning streak, but still missed the playoffs.

The host Seahawks gained 536 yards in a 41-16 rout of AFC West champion Denver. Curt Warner ran for 192 yards and three touchdowns, including one from 60 yards, and Dave Krieg threw two scoring passes to wide receiver Daryl Turner.

The Giants clinched the home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs (their record at home this season was 8-0) by crushing Green Bay 55-24.

The Bears subjected Dallas (7-9) to its first losing season since 1964 with a 24-10 victory at Irving, Texas. Doug Flutie started his first NFL game and threw two touchdown passes.

► **Tight end Russ Francis went high to haul in a 1-yard touchdown pass from Joe Montana in the 49ers' 24-14 defeat of the Los Angeles Rams. The victory gave San Francisco the NFC West title.**

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Boomer Esiason

Harvey Armstrong

Wade Wilson

Otis Wilson

AFC OFFENSE — Boomer Esiason, quarterback, Cincinnati Bengals

Esiason passed for 425 yards and five touchdowns—completing 23 of 30—as the Bengals ripped the visiting New York Jets 52-21. Cris Collinsworth caught three of the touchdown passes.

AFC DEFENSE — Harvey Armstrong, nose tackle, Indianapolis Colts

Armstrong made five tackles, including a sack, and recovered two fumbles, one setting up a field goal, as the Colts finished the season with three wins in a row, surprising the Raiders 30-24 at Los Angeles.

NFC OFFENSE — Wade Wilson, quarterback, Minnesota Vikings

Wilson, starting his third game for injured Tommy Kramer, threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns (two to tight end Steve Jordan) to lead the host Vikings past the New Orleans Saints 33-17. He completed 24 of 39 passes, as the Vikings wound up with a 9-7 record, their best since 1980.

NFC DEFENSE — Otis Wilson, linebacker, Chicago Bears

Wilson made four tackles in the Bears' 24-10 victory over Dallas. He also had two sacks and recovered fumbles on the Chicago 20- and 21-yard lines to kill Cowboys threats at Irving, Texas.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	11	5	0
N.Y. Jets	10	6	0
Miami	8	8	0
Buffalo	4	12	0
Indianapolis	3	13	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Cleveland	12	4	0
Cincinnati	10	6	0
Pittsburgh	6	10	0
Houston	5	11	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	11	5	0
Kansas City	10	6	0
Seattle	10	6	0
L.A. Raiders	8	8	0
San Diego	4	12	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	14	2	0
Washington	12	4	0
Dallas	7	9	0
Philadelphia	5	10	1
St. Louis	4	11	1

NFC Central	W	L	T
Chicago	14	2	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Detroit	5	11	0
Green Bay	4	12	0
Tampa Bay	2	14	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	10	5	1
L.A. Rams	10	6	0
Atlanta	7	8	1
New Orleans	7	9	0

SCORES

AFC	NFC
Cincinnati 52, N.Y. Jets 21	Cincinnati 52, N.Y. Jets 21
Cleveland 47, San Diego 17	Cleveland 47, San Diego 17
Houston 16, Buffalo 7	Houston 16, Buffalo 7
Indianapolis 30, L.A. Raiders 24	Indianapolis 30, L.A. Raiders 24
Kansas City 24, Pittsburgh 19	Kansas City 24, Pittsburgh 19
New England 34, Miami 27	New England 34, Miami 27
Seattle 41, Denver 16	Seattle 41, Denver 16
NFC	AFC
Atlanta 20, Detroit 6	Atlanta 20, Detroit 6
Chicago 24, Dallas 10	Chicago 24, Dallas 10
Minnesota 33, New Orleans 17	Minnesota 33, New Orleans 17
N.Y. Giants 55, Green Bay 24	N.Y. Giants 55, Green Bay 24
St. Louis 21, Tampa Bay 17	St. Louis 21, Tampa Bay 17
San Francisco 24, L.A. Rams 14	San Francisco 24, L.A. Rams 14
Washington 21, Philadelphia 14	Washington 21, Philadelphia 14



Playoff Lineup Is Completed, Patriots Win the East, Schroeder Wakes Up Redskins, and Colts Finish 3-0



Thomas J. Croke

▲ New England clinched the AFC East title when wide receiver Stanley Morgan reeled in a 31-yard touchdown pass from Steve Grogan with 44 seconds to play to overcome the Dolphins 34-27 at Miami. Morgan caught eight passes for 148 yards in the game.



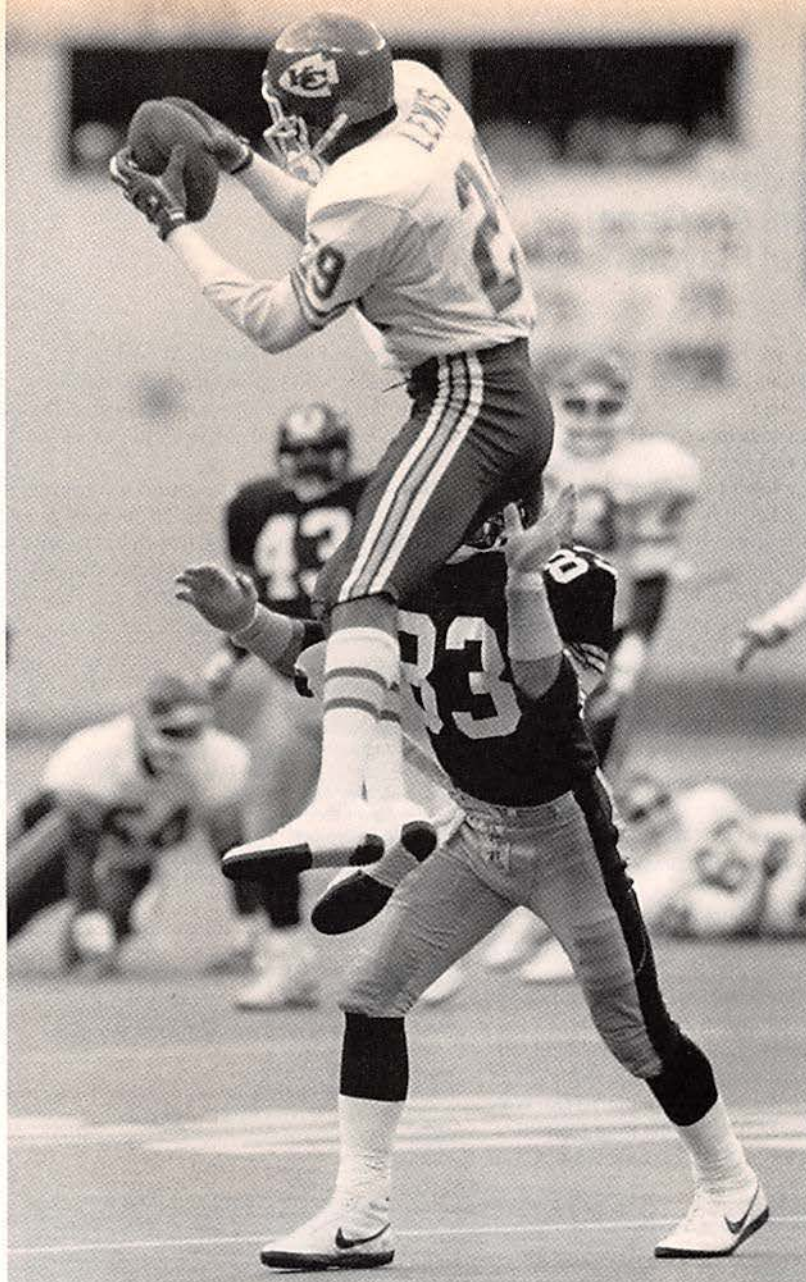
Paul Spinelli

▲ Jay Schroeder threw fourth-quarter scoring passes to Clint Didier and Don Warren, and the Redskins rallied from an 0-14 deficit to defeat Philadelphia 21-14.

► The Colts, once 0-13, won their third game in a row, shocking the Raiders 30-24 behind Albert Bentley's 162 yards rushing. The Raiders were 0-4 down the stretch.



George Robarge



Bill Amatucci

▲ While Pittsburgh's Louis Lipps (83) watched helplessly, Kansas City cornerback Albert Lewis soared for an interception of a Mark Malone pass. The Chiefs won 24-19 to clinch a wild-card playoff berth.



Herb Weitman



Brian Spurlock

▲ Cincinnati missed the playoffs, although Boomer Esiason threw five touchdown passes in a 52-21 rout of the New York Jets.



Jim Turner

▲ Joe Morris bettered his own Giants single-season rushing record, finishing with 1,516 yards after running for 115 against Green Bay. The Giants won 55-24.

◀ Rookie Vai Sikahema of St. Louis raced 71 and 60 yards on scoring punt returns in the second quarter, and the Cardinals put them to good use, edging Tampa Bay 21-17.

WEEK 17

Ryan Ignites Struggling Jets, and Opportunistic Chiefs Are Gone; Rams Fumble Way Out of Playoffs

N.Y. JETS 35, KANSAS CITY 15 WASHINGTON 19, L.A. RAMS 7

The New York Jets, mired in a five-game losing streak, were behind again as they faced the Kansas City Chiefs in the first quarter of the AFC Wild Card Game. The Chiefs had driven 67 yards to a touchdown on their opening possession and led 6-0.

On the next series, Pat Ryan, the Jets' 31-year-old backup quarterback who was starting in place of slumping Ken O'Brien, faced a fourth-and-6 situation at the Kansas City 33-yard line.

Jets coach Joe Walton, disdaining a long field-goal attempt, had decided to try for a first down.

Walton called a play the Jets had not run all season.

Ryan faked a pitchout to the left, then ran through a big hole up the middle for 24 yards and a first down on the Kansas City 9.

Shortly after that, New York's Freeman McNeil scored from the 4-yard line. A conversion put the Jets ahead 7-6, and they never trailed again.

New York went on to delight the Giants Stadium crowd with a 35-15 victory as Ryan threw three touchdown passes and McNeil rushed for 135 yards. With Ryan at quarterback, the Jets again looked like the team that had a 10-1 record after 11 weeks.

"Pat Ryan gave us the emotional lift we were looking for," said Walton.

Ryan's scoring passes went 1 yard to McNeil, 11 to wide receiver Al Toon, and 6 to reserve tight end Billy Griggs. For the afternoon, he completed 16 of 23.

Ryan was asked if he felt any pressure, replacing O'Brien, the NFL's top-rated passer before the Jets began their losing streak.

"Early in the week I didn't feel any pressure," he said, "but everything I read was that I was the last hope. That kind of scared me."

What ultimately must have scared Rams coach John Robinson was the sight of watching his own team trying to hold onto the football in the NFC Wild Card Game. The Washington Redskins, also playing at home, forced six turnovers and stopped the Rams 19-7. Since moving to Los Angeles in 1946, the Rams are 0-9 in playoff games in the East and Midwest.

Although Eric Dickerson rushed for 158 yards, the Rams lost four fumbles, including three by Dickerson (at the Redskins' 35-, 17-, and 39-yard lines) and one by tight end David Hill (at the Washington 26).

Those turnovers not only ended Rams drives, but two of them set up Redskins field goals by Jess Atkinson. Rookie Alvin Walton, who recovered one of the Rams' fumbles, also intercepted a pass by quarterback Jim

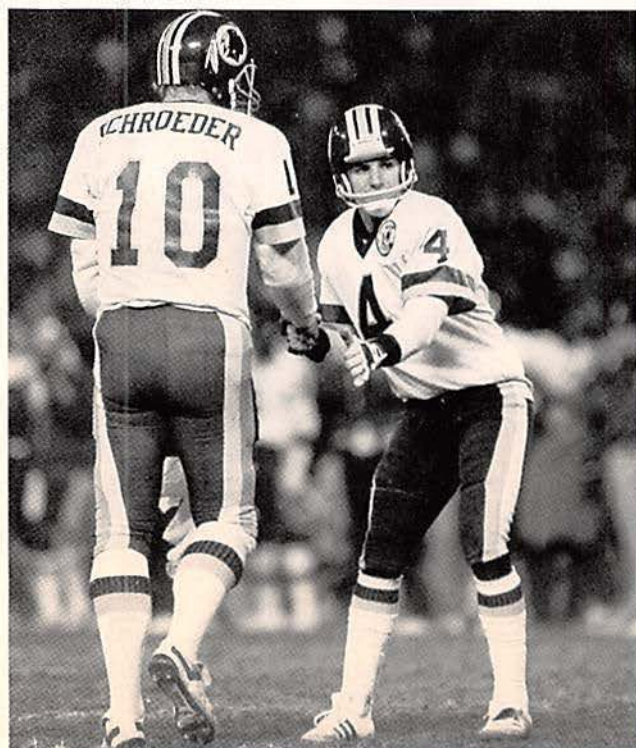
Everett to lead to the final field goal.

Atkinson, who was waived by the Redskins before the season and re-signed in mid-December, kicked a total of four field goals to tie a club playoff record.

The Redskins did not commit a turnover. They controlled the ball for 36 minutes behind the running of George Rogers (115 yards on 29 carries) and the short passes of Jay Schroeder (13 of 23 for 90 yards).

Kansas City	6	0	0	9	—15
New York Jets	7	14	7	7	—35
KC	— Smith 1 run (kick failed)				
NYJ	— McNeil 4 run (Leahy kick)				
NYJ	— McNeil 1 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick)				
NYJ	— Toon 11 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick)				
NYJ	— McArthur 21 interception return (Leahy kick)				
KC	— Lewis recovered blocked punt in end zone (Lowery kick)				
NYJ	— Griggs 6 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick)				
KC	— Safety: Jennings stepped out of end zone				
Attendance—69,307					

L.A. Rams	0	0	0	7	— 7
Washington	10	3	3	3	— 19
Wash — FG Atkinson 25					
Wash — Bryant 14 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick)					
Wash — FG Atkinson 20					
Wash — FG Atkinson 38					
Rams — House 12 pass from Everett (Lansford kick)					
Wash — FG Atkinson 19					
Attendance — 54,180					



Jay Schroeder congratulated Jess Atkinson, who kicked four field goals in Washington's defeat of the Rams.



Freeman McNeil ran for 135 yards and a touchdown and caught a scoring pass as the Jets hammered the Chiefs.

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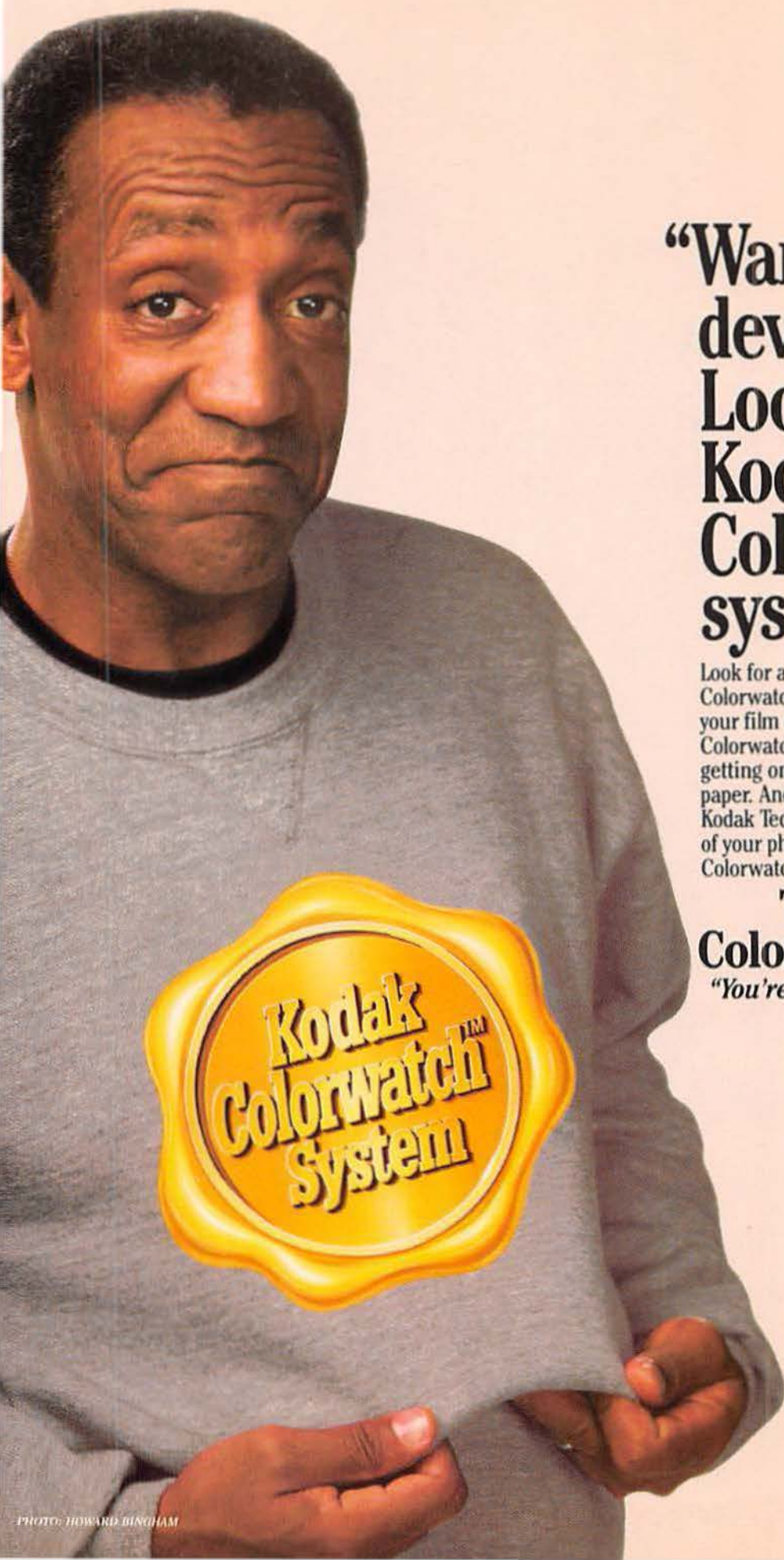
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Giants Make It Look Easy, but Flutie and Bears Come Up Short; Browns, Broncos Stronger at the Finish

CLEVELAND 23, N.Y. JETS 20 (2 OT)
WASHINGTON 27, CHICAGO 13
N.Y. GIANTS 49, SAN FRANCISCO 3
DENVER 22, NEW ENGLAND 17

There was talk of a classic showdown between the defending Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears and the powerful New York Giants in the NFC Championship Game. Both teams had long winning streaks, both took 14-2 records into the playoffs, and both had overwhelming defenses.

But, as it turned out, only one of them would be in the game.

The Giants made it with an astonishing 49-3 rout of the 49ers, but the Bears were upset 27-13 by this year's wild-card Cinderella, the Washington Redskins.

The loss by the Bears, who had won seven in a row, also made it seven successive seasons that the NFL will not have a repeat Super Bowl champion. The Pittsburgh Steelers (games XIII and XIV) were the last to win back-to-back NFL titles.

"It makes you appreciate a team like the Steelers," said Bears linebacker Mike Singletary after the loss. "That's what's so frustrating. I think we're a team like that. . . I know we're a team like that."

While the Giants and Redskins, the 1-2 finishers in the NFC East, prepared to meet again, the Cleveland Browns and Denver

Broncos advanced in the AFC in dramatic—and in the Browns' case—heart-stopping fashion.

Cleveland, the AFC Central Division champion, rallied from 10 points down in the last four minutes, then went two overtime periods to turn back the New York Jets 23-20 on Mark Moseley's 27-yard field goal. The winning kick came 2:02 into the second overtime, making the game the third-longest in NFL history at 77 minutes, 2 seconds.

Denver's Western Division champions took the lead for good on John Elway's 48-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Vance Johnson on the last play of the third quarter and held on to stop New England, the defending AFC champion, 22-17.

In New York, the Giants' blitz of the 49ers came by the largest margin of victory in a playoff since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.

"It wasn't the perfect game, but it was pretty close to it," said Giants coach Bill Parcells. "We played very, very well."

The Giants' Phil Simms completed just nine passes, but four were for touchdowns to four different receivers. And 5-foot 7-inch Joe Morris darted for 159 yards and scored on 45- and 2-yard runs.

The Giants' defense held the 49ers to 184 yards and scored or set up three touchdowns with interceptions. Linebacker Lawrence

Taylor collected one of them when he caught an errant pass by Joe Montana and returned it 34 yards for a touchdown with 28 seconds left in the first half. On the play, Montana was hit by nose tackle Jim Burt as he threw and was knocked out of the game with a concussion.

Two other New York touchdown drives followed interceptions by safety Herb Welch and rookie linebacker Pepper Johnson.

The 49ers made the game's biggest error when it was scoreless. Wide receiver Jerry Rice caught a pass from Montana over the middle and was on his way to a 50-yard touchdown when he dropped the ball at the New York 27. In trying to pick it up, Rice succeeded only in batting it into the end zone, where it was recovered by Giants safety Kenny Hill.

The Bears led 13-7 at halftime of their game, but, like the Rams the week before, they made too many mistakes to beat opportunistic Washington. The Redskins forced four Chicago turnovers and made only one themselves, making it 10 takeaways and one turnover in two postseason victories.

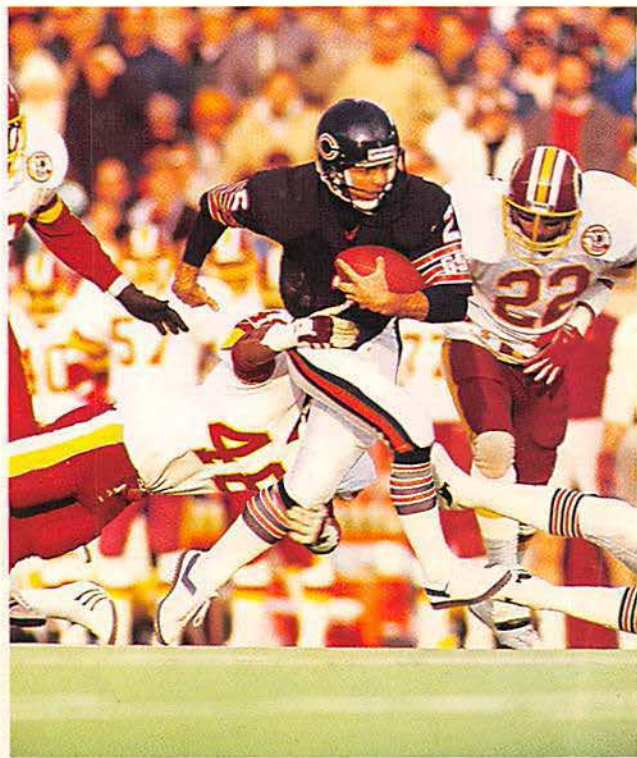
Did the Bears overlook the Redskins?

"Absolutely," said defensive end Dexter Manley of Washington. "They looked past us. They were out getting sized up for their Super Bowl rings."

Manley and his defensive teammates chased 5-foot 9-inch Chicago quarterback



Kevin Mack ran for 36 of the 60 yards Cleveland traveled to the winning field goal in overtime.



The Bears' Doug Flutie was harassed all day by safety Ken Coffey (48) and the rest of the Redskins' defense.

Doug Flutie all over Soldier Field, holding him to 11 completions in 31 attempts for just 134 yards. They also held Walter Payton to 38 yards on 14 carries. Payton fumbled the ball away at the Redskins' 17-yard line with the score 14-13. Washington then drove 83 yards to George Rogers's one-yard touchdown run that made it 21-13.

Meanwhile, the Redskins' Jay Schroeder threw 28- and 23-yard touchdown passes to wide receiver Art Monk.

In Cleveland, the Browns had not won a playoff game since 1969, and the streak appeared to be in no danger of ending when the wild-card Jets took a 20-10 lead with 4:14 left in the game. Freeman McNeil ran 25 yards down the right sideline for the touchdown that gave New York a 10-point lead on the first play after cornerback Jerry Holmes had intercepted a Bernie Kosar pass.

But Kosar rallied the Browns to a 20-20 tie by directing a 68-yard touchdown drive and a 62-yard field-goal drive. On the touchdown drive, Kosar completed his last four passes, and Kevin Mack scored from the 1-yard line with 1:57 left.

On the march to the field goal, Kosar passed 37 yards to rookie wide receiver Webster Slaughter to put the ball on the Jets' 5. Then Moseley kicked a 22-yard field goal with seven seconds left to send the game into overtime.

Kosar drove his team downfield the first time Cleveland got the ball in overtime, but Moseley, who kicked three field goals and

missed three, shanked a 23-yard attempt.

Cleveland gave Moseley another chance to win it with a 60-yard drive to the Jets' 9-yard line that spanned the end of the first overtime and beginning of the second. Mack ran for 36 of the 60 yards on six carries. This time Moseley connected, giving the Browns their sixth victory in a row.

Kosar set NFL playoff passing records with 489 yards and 64 attempts, and tied the record for completions (33), equaling and surpassing marks set by San Diego's Dan Fouts.

In Denver, Elway played the entire second half with a sprained ankle before throwing the winning touchdown pass. He also scrambled 22 yards for a first-half touchdown and threw for 257 yards in all. Denver, which was twentieth in the NFL in rushing, got a big boost from Sammy Winder, who ran for 102 yards.

New England's Tony Eason threw 19- and 45-yard scoring passes to wide receiver Stanley Morgan as the Patriots took 7-3 and 17-13 leads. But, trailing 20-17, Eason never got a chance to send the game into overtime or win it outright because he was sacked in the end zone for a safety by Broncos defensive end Rulon Jones with 1:37 left. New England failed on an onside free kick after the safety, and the Broncos ran out the clock.

N.Y. Jets	7	3	3	7	0	0—20
Cleveland	7	3	0	10	0	3—23
NYJ — Walker 42 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick)						
Cle — Fontenot 37 pass from Kosar (Moseley kick)						
Cle — FG Moseley 38						
NYJ — FG Leahy 46						

NYJ — FG Leahy 37						
NYJ — McNeil 25 run (Leahy kick)						
Cle — Mack 1 run (Moseley kick)						
Cle — FG Moseley 22						
Cle — FG Moseley 27						
Attendance—78,106						

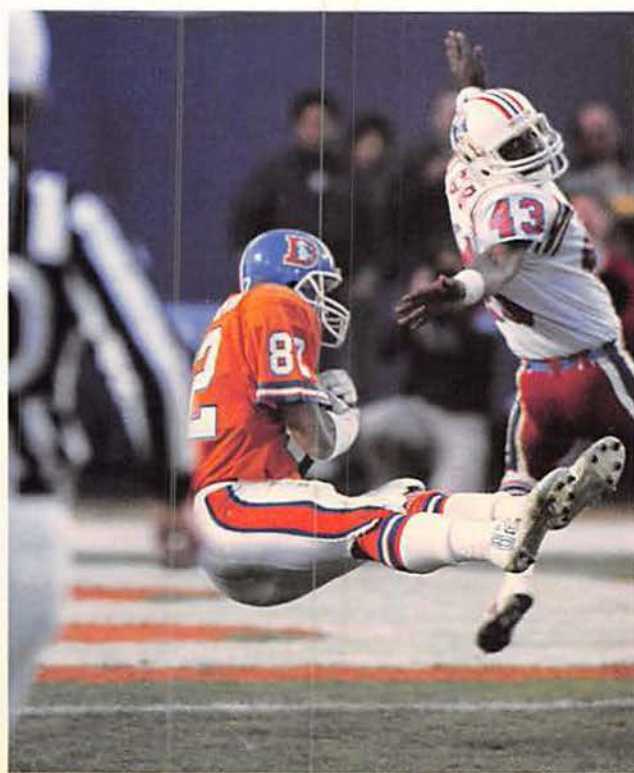
Washington	7	0	7	13	—27
Chicago	0	13	0	0	—13
Wash — Monk 28 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick)					
Chi — Gault 50 pass from Flutie (Butler kick)					
Chi — FG Butler 23					
Chi — FG Butler 41					
Wash — Monk 23 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick)					
Wash — Rogers 1 run (Atkinson kick)					
Wash — FG Atkinson 35					
Wash — FG Atkinson 25					
Attendance—65,141					

San Francisco	3	0	0	0	—3
New York Giants	7	21	21	0	—49
NYG — Bavaro 24 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
SF — FG Wersching 26					
NYG — Morris 45 run (Allegre kick)					
NYG — Johnson 15 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
NYG — Taylor 34 interception return (Allegre kick)					
NYG — McConkey 28 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
NYG — Mowatt 29 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
NYG — Morris 2 run (Allegre kick)					
Attendance—76,034					

New England	0	10	7	0	—17
Denver	3	7	10	2	—22
Den — FG Karlis 27					
NE — Morgan 19 pass from Eason (Franklin kick)					
Den — Elway 22 run (Karlis kick)					
NE — FG Franklin 38					
Den — FG Karlis 22					
NE — Morgan 45 pass from Eason (Franklin kick)					
Den — Johnson 48 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)					
Den — Safety: Eason tackled in end zone by Jones					
Attendance—76,105					



Joe Morris of the Giants ran for 159 yards and two touchdowns in New York's shocking rout of San Francisco.



Denver's Vance Johnson eluded Patriots cornerback Ernest Gibson to catch the winning touchdown pass.



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Pete J. Groh

Wide receiver Brian Brennan (above) gave Cleveland the lead when he scored on a 48-yard pass from Bernie Kosar with just 5:43 left, but Denver rallied to win. Nose guard Jim Burt (right) and the rest of the Giants' defense stifled George Rogers and the Redskins.



Jim Turner

WEEK 19 Elway's Remarkable 98-Yard Drive Frustrates Browns; Giants' Defense Hurls a Shutout Against Redskins

**DENVER 23, CLEVELAND 20 (OT)
N.Y. GIANTS 17, WASHINGTON 0**

When John Elway huddled the Denver Broncos in their own end zone, they were a long way from winning the AFC championship.

To be precise, they were 98 yards away from even tying the Cleveland Browns, who led 20-13, had a six-game winning streak going, and had nearly 80,000 fans behind them. The clock showed 5:32 left in the game and perhaps in the season. Then wide receiver Steve Watson noticed quarterback John Elway was smiling.

"John said, 'If you guys work hard, good things are going to happen,'" Watson said. "Then he gave us a smile. I've never seen him like that."

Anyone who can smile in the face of adversity is already on his way to overcoming it, and Elway did just that.

Operating on a sprained ankle, as he did all day, the 26-year-old quarterback completed six passes and ran twice for 20 yards, driving the Broncos those 98 yards in 15 plays. With 37 seconds left, he drilled a 5-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Mark Jackson, pulling his team into a 20-20 tie and sending the game into overtime.

On Denver's first possession in overtime, Elway came right back out and directed the Broncos on a 60-yard drive to the Cleveland 15. When the advance stalled there, Rich Karlis kicked a 33-yard field goal that won the game 23-20. The fourth-year quarterback's 22- and 28-yard passes to Orson Mobley and Watson were the major gains on the winning drive.



Mark Bavaro set up two Giants scores.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Elway said. "I'm going to have to slap myself."

In New York, the slapping was done by the Giants, who won the NFC title with a 17-0 rout of the Washington Redskins, overcoming a wind that gusted to as much as 35 miles an hour. The victory ended 30 years of frustration. The Giants last won the NFL title in 1956 and didn't even dare to dream of the Super Bowl as recently as 1983 when they were 3-12-1.

It was the third successive year that the

NFC Championship Game ended in a shutout. The Giants headed for the Super Bowl with an 11-game winning streak by holding Washington to 190 yards. It was their third defeat of the Redskins this season. Against the fierce Giants defense, Washington was 0-for-14 on third-down conversions and 0-4 on fourth-down tries.

But Cleveland Stadium was the site of the day's greatest drama. On a gray, blustery afternoon in which the wind-chill factor was 10 degrees, Elway completed 22 of 38 passes for 244 yards and scrambled four times for 56 yards.

The Browns' Bernie Kosar completed 18 of 32 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns, including a 48-yard pass to wide receiver Brian Brennan that gave Cleveland the 20-13 lead with 5:43 left. Cleveland also led 7-0 in the first quarter when Kosar threw a 6-yard scoring pass to running back Herman Fontenot. But the Browns also made several costly mistakes in the first half. Kosar threw an interception that linebacker Jim Ryan returned 26 yards to set up a field goal, and Kevin Mack lost a fumble on the Cleveland 37; linebacker Ken Woodard recovered to set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Gerald Willhite. Willhite's score was helped by the Browns' defense, which played the down with only 10 men.

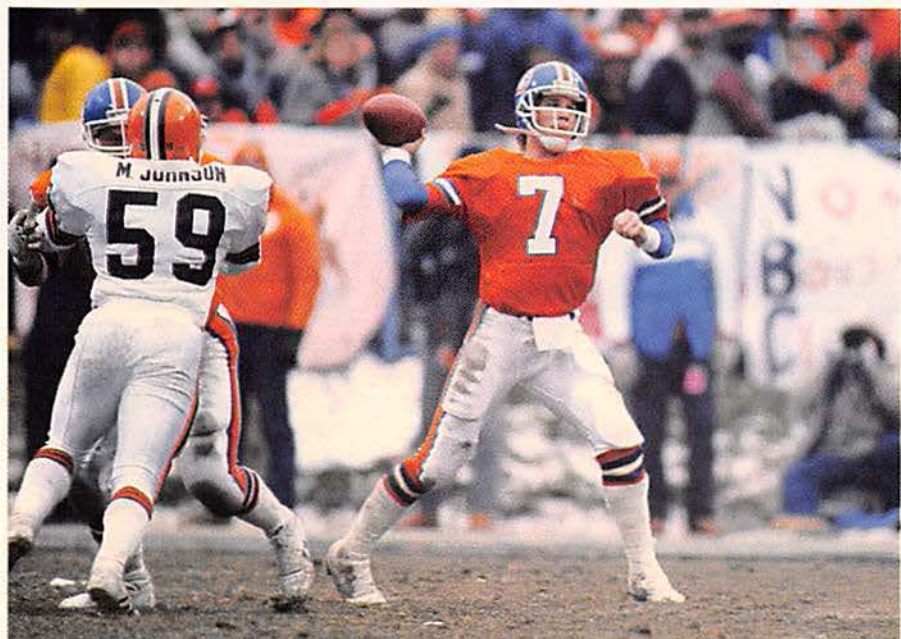
The Giants also had help. They scored all of their points in the first half, and started all of their drives in Washington territory.

Winning the coin toss, New York chose to kick off with the wind. When the Redskins were stopped twice in the first quarter, Steve Cox's 23- and 27-yard punts into the wind set up the Giants on the Redskins' 47- and 38-yard lines. Raul Allegre kicked a 47-yard field goal, and Phil Simms threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Lionel Manuel.

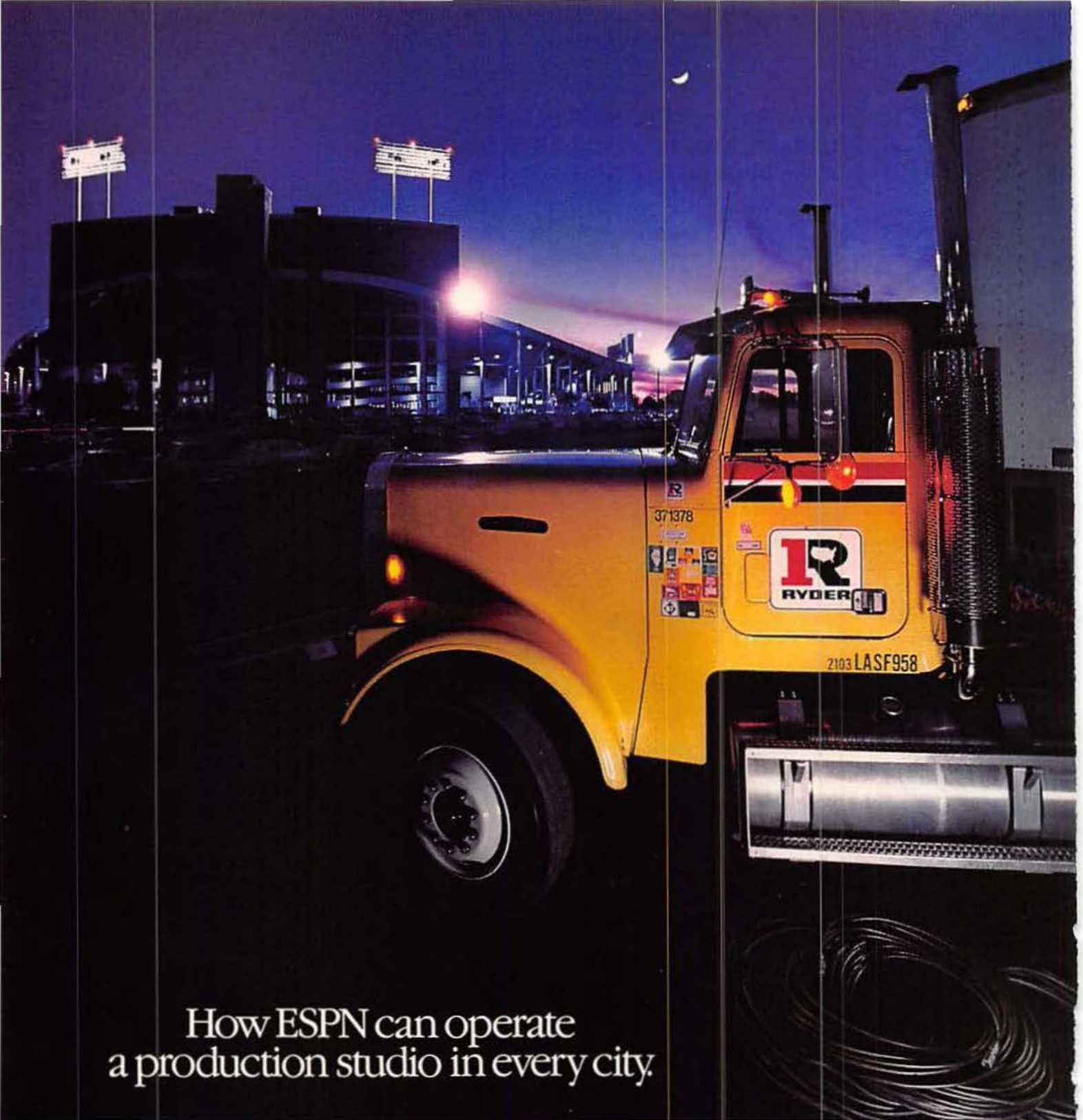
A bungled Washington field-goal attempt in the second quarter left the Giants on the Redskins' 49. Six plays later, Joe Morris scored from the 1.

Denver.....	0	10	3	7	3	—	23
Cleveland.....	7	3	0	10	0	—	20
Cle — Fontenot 6 pass from Kosar (Moseley kick)							
Den — FG Karlis 19							
Den — Willhite 1 run (Karlis kick)							
Cle — FG Moseley 29							
Den — FG Karlis 26							
Cle — FG Moseley 24							
Cle — Brennan 48 pass from Kosar (Moseley kick)							
Den — M. Jackson 5 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)							
Den — FG Karlis 33							
Attendance — 79,915							

Washington.....	0	0	0	0	—	0
New York Giants ..	10	7	0	0	—	17
NYG — FG Allegre 47						
NYG — Manuel 11 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)						
NYG — Morris 1 run (Allegre kick)						
Attendance — 76,663						



John Elway led Denver 98 yards on the drive that sent the game into overtime.



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SUPER BOWL XXI

THE FIRST HALF BELONGED TO JOHN ELWAY AND THE BRONCOS,
THEN PHIL SIMMS AND THE DEFENSE TOOK CHARGE AND THE GIANTS
WON IT TO THE STRAINS OF "NEW YORK, NEW YORK"

BY STEVE CASSADY

The New York Giants sagged into the locker room at halftime of Super Bowl XXI trailing the Denver Broncos 10-9. They had just endured 30 minutes of heat from John Elway's sizzling right arm and from shirt-sleeve weather in Pasadena, where the mercury registered 76 degrees at kickoff in the Rose Bowl.

"It was so hot the first half," said Lawrence Taylor, the Giants' demon linebacker, "nobody could catch their breath . . . but it cooled down in the second half, and that gave us momentum to play our game."

Indeed it did. Elway's heroics—as bright as they had been—were destined to sink with the afternoon sun.

Elway had scrambled for good yardage the first half. He had dumped off short passes to Gerald Willhite and Sammy Winder. He had eluded the Giants' rush and thrown long to Mark Jackson, Steve Watson, and Vance Johnson. In all, he had 13 completions in 20 attempts for 187 yards.

He had driven the Broncos' offense inside the Giants' 20 three different times.

As the first half ended and the second was beginning, the ground under Denver's chances was about to give way. The cracks were forming—that much was obvious from a disastrous sequence in the second quarter, when the Broncos had the ball and a 10-7 lead.

Elway had led Denver on its third successive drive, this time to the Giants' 1-yard line. But on first down, he lost a yard on a sprint out to the right. On second, he sent Gerald Willhite up the middle for no gain.

Declining to pass into coverage constricted by the back of the end zone, Elway pitched the ball to Sammy Winder for a run to the left behind a wing formation of two tight ends. On the right, across from tackle Dave Studdard, Giants linebacker Carl Banks, who would lead the team with 10 unassisted tackles, was down in a three-point stance.

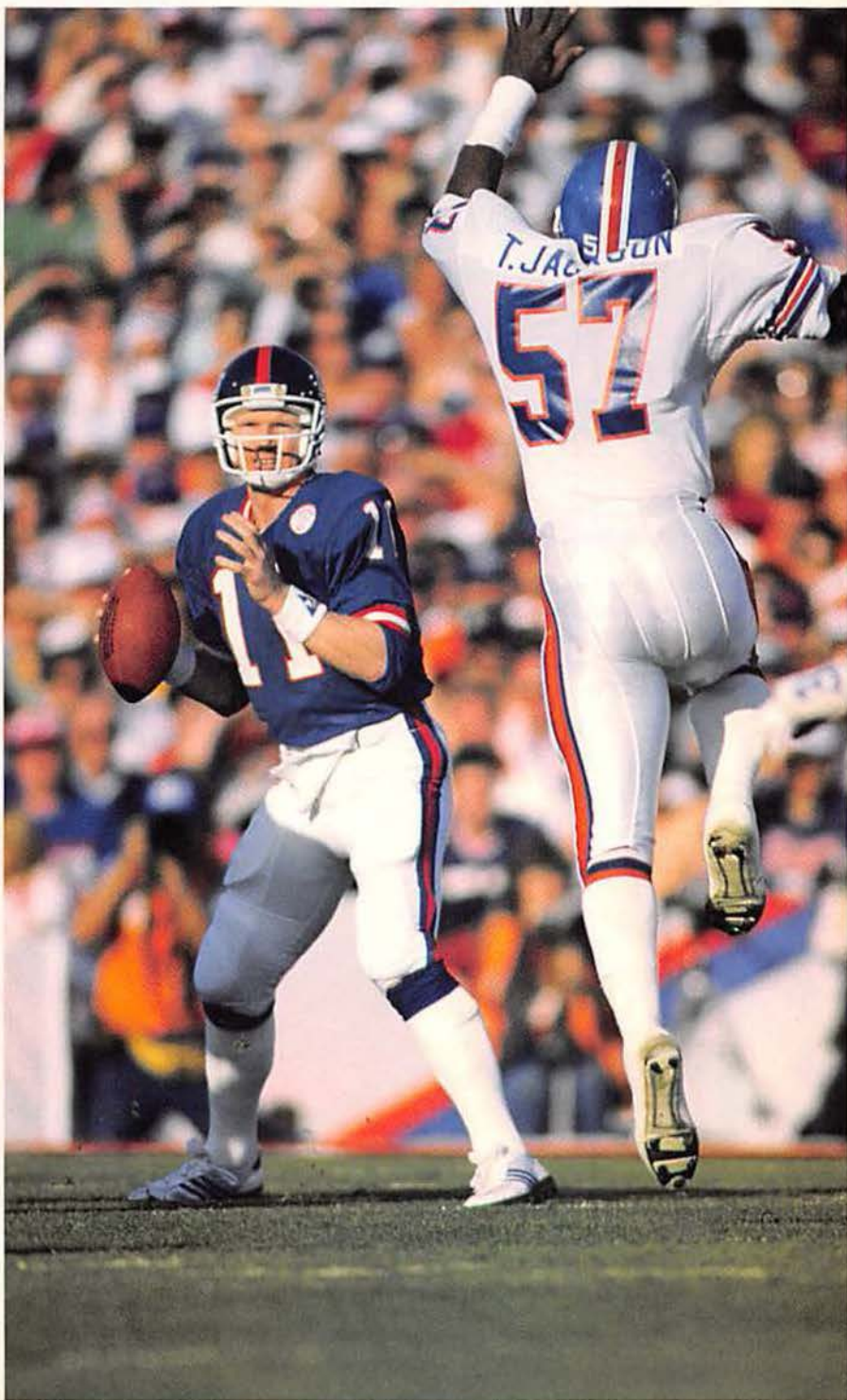
Banks was off with the snap. By the time Winder had caught Elway's flip, Banks was clearing Studdard's block. He swooped along the line, catching Winder for a four-yard loss.

On fourth-and-goal, barefoot kicker Rich Karlis sailed a 23-yard field-goal attempt wide to the right, his first of two short misses. Denver's best shot at taking the game from the Giants was blown.

"I tried to steer them," Karlis said later. "I wasn't aggressive. I don't know what to say."

Elway had been running the Giants' defenders ragged. But through deep gasps to

Text continued on page 161

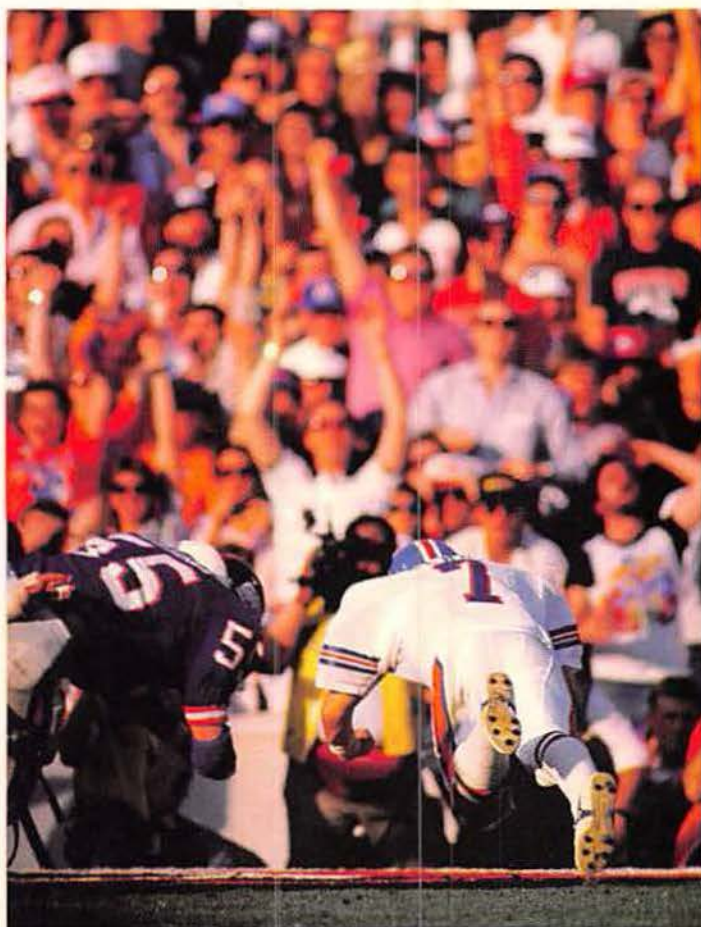


New York quarterback Phil Simms, Super Bowl XXI's most valuable player, rarely was pressured all day. He completed 22 of 25 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns.

Bill Cummings



▲ By the time the Giants first touched the football, they trailed 3-0. But Phil Simms drove them 78 yards in nine plays to the lead. The drive culminated in Simms's sixth consecutive completion, six yards to reserve tight end Zeke Mowatt for a touchdown. The catch was Mowatt's only one of the game.



Rob Brown



Bill Cummings

◀ Trailing 7-3, the Broncos drove right back to retake the lead. The 58-yard drive took only nine plays and was sparked by Elway's 4-for-4 passing. Elway then ran a quarterback draw four yards, diving for the touchdown on third down.

▶ With less than three minutes remaining in the half, Elway dropped back to pass from his own 13 on third-and-12. George Martin raced in from left end and sacked Elway for a safety that cut the Giants' half-time deficit to one point, 10-9.



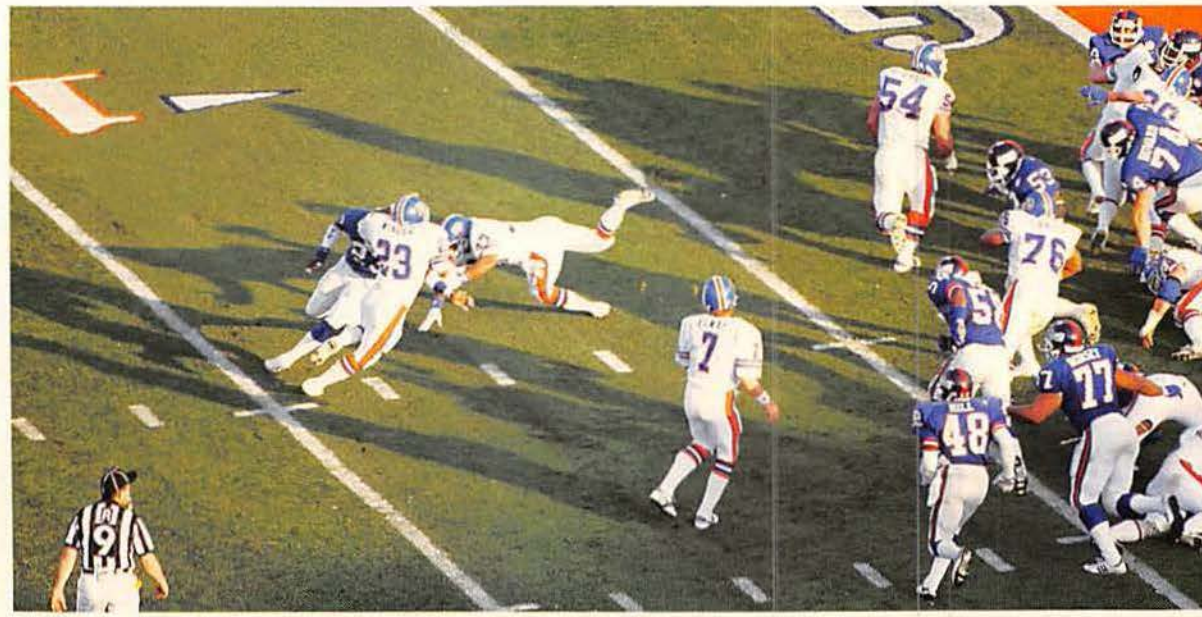
Paul Jasienowski



Jim Ellis



Jim Ellis



Jim Ellis



Gin Ellis

The turning point of Super Bowl XXI came after the Broncos gained a first-and-goal at the 1-yard line in the first quarter. On third-and-2, Sammy Winder (not shown in the top photo at left, but number 23 in the rest) took a pitch from John Elway and headed toward left end (center, left). Winder cut in to avoid Perry Williams (23, dark jersey, above) and was dropped for a four-yard loss by Carl Banks (58).

On the last play of the first half, Denver's Rich Karlis had a chance both to redeem himself for missing an earlier short field goal and to send the Broncos ahead 13-9 at halftime. He did neither, shanking a 34-yard attempt wide right.



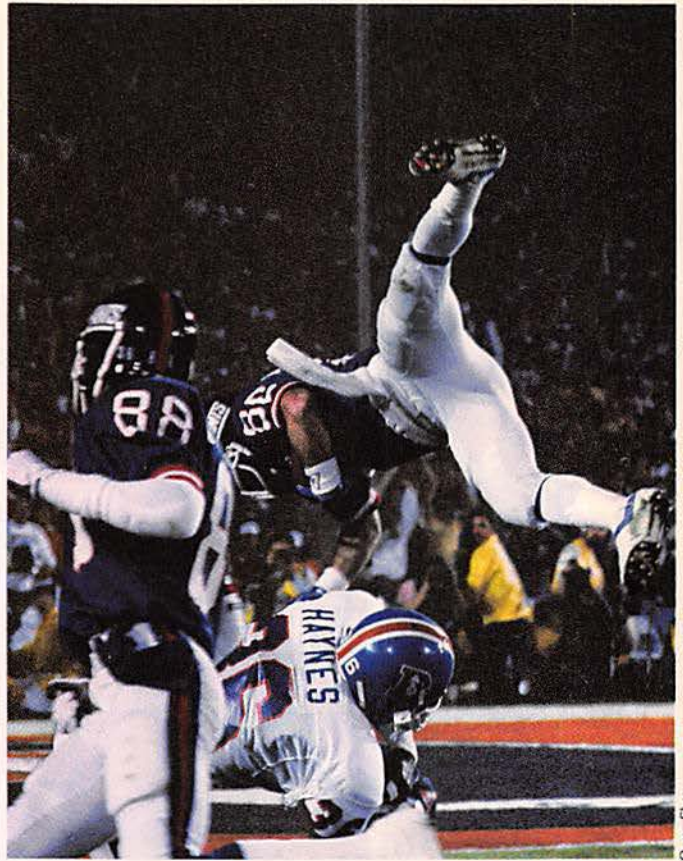
Bill Cummings



In the second half, John Elway was mercilessly harassed by the Giants' defense as New York took control of the game.



Bill Cummings



Owen Shaw

In the first 11 minutes of the third quarter, the Giants gave the Broncos a knockout punch. New York completed a 63-yard scoring drive with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Phil Simms to tight end Mark Bavaro (above). The next time the Giants had the ball, Raul Allegre kicked a 21-yard field goal. And on the Giants next possession, Phil McConkey took a pass from Simms and ran 44 yards down the left sideline before making a crash landing at the 1-yard line (right). On the next play (bottom), Joe Morris ran wide right, scooting in for the touchdown that made the score 26-10.



Manny Rubio



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► Early in the fourth quarter, Phil Simms capped a 52-yard drive with his third touchdown pass of the game, six yards to the Giants' emotional leader, Phil McConkey, who caught the ball after it ricocheted off Mark Bavaro's shoulder.



▼ Phil McConkey (80) and Bavaro (89), each of whom caught a touchdown pass in Super Bowl XXI, celebrated McConkey's score. The touchdown put New York ahead 33-10 with less than 11 minutes remaining in the game.



Text continued from page 153

catch their breath, the Giants had to be smiling. Denver had missed the opportunity it could not afford against a team such as the Giants. And if the Broncos didn't feel the significance of the moment, their coach Dan Reeves did.

"It hurt us," Reeves said. "How much I don't know. But being down there, first-and-goal on the one, and not getting any points, that hurts."

The pain got worse. With 13 seconds left in the half, Karlis missed a 34-yard field goal after Denver had marched to the Giants' 16. So at halftime the Broncos led only 10-9.

What happened in the Giants' locker room at halftime? Well, it wasn't complicated.

Taylor explained the atmosphere: "We said let's go out and knock 'em on their butts."

The Giants did just that. As Phil Simms completed all 10 of his second-half passes for two of his three touchdowns, New York outscored Denver 30-3 in one wild burst to take a 39-13 lead, before the Broncos' meaningless touchdown with two minutes left cut the final score to 39-20.

Simms ended the day with 22 completions in 25 attempts, a Super Bowl accuracy record, and the most valuable player award.

"Every one I threw I liked," he said. "I

didn't want one of them back."

"No adjustments, just execution," was the way Giants' head coach Bill Parcells explained the second-half blitzkrieg. But it began with a surprise play.

After Lee Rouson brought Karlis's kickoff back to the Giants' 37, Simms could take his offense only nine yards in three plays. On fourth-and-1, with punter Sean Landeta standing 15 yards back, his hands up to accept the long snap, the up man, reserve quarterback Jeff Rutledge, moved in under center.

He let the 30-second clock almost run out, then quickly crouched into position and barked his signals. When he took the snap, Rutledge wedged to the right behind a double-team block on the nose tackle and made two yards for the first down.

"You're trying to win the game," said Parcells of his call, as though the decision had been easy or common. "This is for the world championship. It's not for faint-hearted people. So you take your shot."

New York had, and it hit dead center. Five plays later, Simms zipped the ball between coverage over the middle to tight end Mark Bavaro for a 13-yard touchdown and a 16-10 lead. The assault was on. The fourth-down gamble was the bugle call—as it had been so often for New York in 1986.

Two months earlier, at Candlestick Park on a Monday night, the Giants had dropped behind the San Francisco 49ers at halftime 17-0. The Giants had been shut down primarily because the 49ers were bringing up safeties and keeping in linebackers, deploying them to stop New York's most conspicuous threat on offense, Joe Morris.

The strategy worked as far as it went—Morris gained only two first-half yards in six carries. But New York switched emphasis after the intermission—from Morris's running to Simms's passing.

Obviously the book on the Giants was to shut down Morris and make the quarterback throw to win. The theory was, if Simms has to pass every down, he'll self-destruct. But Simms disproved the notion with two third-quarter touchdown passes, both threaded through decent 49ers coverage.

But the real precursor from that game happened with the Giants trailing 17-7 in the third quarter. The 49ers had stopped them short again, leaving them fourth-and-2 from their own 49. Parcells kept the punting team on the sideline and later said he had a "gut feeling." Simms handed to Morris on a slant to the right, and Morris broke it for 17 yards.

The very next play, on first down from the 49ers' 34, Simms hit wide receiver Stacy

GIANTS 39, BRONCOS 20



Bill Parcells enjoyed his victory ride off the field.

SUPER BOWL XXI

Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California, January 25, 1987

Denver Broncos (AFC)	10	0	0	10	—20
New York Giants (NFC)	7	2	17	13	—39
DEN—FG Karlis 48					
NY—Mowatt 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
DEN—Elway 4 run (Karlis kick)					
NY—Safety, Elway sacked by Martin					
NY—Bavaro 13 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
NY—FG Allegre 21					
NY—Morris 1 run (Allegre kick)					
NY—McConkey 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)					
DEN—FG Karlis 28					
NY—Anderson 2 run (kick failed)					
DEN—V. Johnson 47 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)					
Attendance—101,063					

TEAM STATISTICS	DENVER	NEW YORK
First Downs	23	24
Rushes-yards	19-52	38-136
Passes	26-41-1	22-25-0
Net yards passing	320	263
Plays-total yards	64-372	64-399
Sacks-yards lost	4-32	1-5
Return yards	93	71
Punts-average	2-41	3-46
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-28	6-48
Time of possession	25:21	34:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (Attempts-yards) **Denver**—Elway 6-27, Willhite 4-19, Sewell 3-4, Lang 2-2, Winder 4-0, **New York**—Morris 20-67, Simms 3-25, Rouson 3-22, Galbreath 4-17, Carthon 3-4, Anderson 2-1, Rutledge 3-0.
PASSING (Completions-attempts-interceptions-yards) **Denver**—Elway 22-37-1-304, Kubiak 4-4-0-48, **New York**—Simms 22-25-0-268.
RECEIVING (Number-yards) **Denver**—V. Johnson 5-

121, Willhite 5-39, Winder 4-34, M. Jackson 3-51, Watson 2-54, Sampson 2-20, Mobley 2-17, Sewell 2-12, Lang 1-4, **New York**—Bavaro 4-51, Morris 4-20, Carthon 4-13, Robinson 3-62, Manuel 3-43, McConkey 2-50, Rouson 1-23, Mowatt 1-6.
INTERCEPTIONS (Number-yards) **New York**—Patterson 1-7.
PUNTING (Number-average) **Denver**—Horan 2-41.0, **New York**—Landeta 3-46.0.
PUNT RETURNS (Number-yards) **Denver**—Willhite 1-9, **New York**—McConkey 1-25.
KICKOFF RETURNS (Number-yards) **Denver**—Bell 3-48, Lang 2-36, **New York**—Rouson 3-56, Flynn 1-3.

STARTING LINEUPS

DENVER	Offense	NEW YORK
Vance Johnson	WR	Lionel Manuel
Dave Studdard	LT	Brad Benson
Keith Bishop	LG	Billy Ard
Billy Bryan	C	Barl Oates
Mark Cooper	RG	Chris Godfrey
Ken Lanier	RT	Karl Nelson
Clarence Kay	TE	Mark Bavaro
Steve Watson	WR	Stacy Robinson
John Elway	QB	Phil Simms
Sammy Winder	RB	Joe Morris
Gerald Willhite	RB	Maurice Carthon
Defense		
Andre Townsend	LE	George Martin
Greg Kragen	NT	Jim Burt
Rulon Jones	RE	Leonard Marshall
Jim Ryan	LOLB	Carl Banks
Karl Mecklenburg	LILB	Gary Reasons
Ricky Hunley	RILB	Harry Carson
Tom Jackson	ROLB	Lawrence Taylor
Louis Wright	LCB	Elvis Patterson
Mike Harden	RCB	Perry Williams
Dennis Smith	SS	Kenny Hill
Steve Foley	FS	Herb Welch

SUPER BOWL RECORDS SET AND TIED

INDIVIDUAL SET

Most consecutive completions—10, Phil Simms, New York Giants
Highest completion percentage (minimum: 15 completions)—88.0, Phil Simms, New York Giants
Shortest field goal missed—23 yards, Rich Karlis, Denver
TIED
Longest field goal—48 yards, Rich Karlis, Denver
Most safeties—1, George Martin, New York Giants
TEAM SET
Narrowest halftime margin—1 point, Denver 10, New York Giants 9

Most points, one half, one team—30, New York Giants
Most points, second half, both teams—40, New York Giants 30, Denver 10
Highest completion percentage, game, one team—88.0, New York Giants
Fewest punts, game, both teams—5, Denver 2, New York Giants 3
TIED
Most touchdowns, game, team—5, New York Giants
Most points, first quarter, both teams—17, Denver 10, New York Giants 7
Most safeties, game, team—1, New York Giants
Fewest punts, game, team—2, Denver
Fewest punt returns, game, both teams—2, Denver 1, New York Giants 1

Robinson down the right sideline for six points. Simms led the Giants to another touchdown on their next series, and they escaped with a 21-17 victory.

The offensive pattern was set from that Monday night game against the 49ers. It continued through the playoffs and stayed set through the Super Bowl. Morris running for big yardage. Simms throwing with lethal precision. Parcells making courageous calls his players were executing. Suppress one, and you had to deal with the others.

In Super Bowl XXI, the Broncos were set up to stop Morris. They put Pro Bowl linebacker Karl Mecklenburg in seven different positions the first half alone. They wanted Mecklenburg always lined up opposite Bavaro, the tight end, because Morris generally runs to the strong side, behind Bavaro's crushing blocks.

New York frustrated that maneuver by shifting Bavaro before the snap and running behind him anyway, generally leaving Mecklenburg on the other side of center.

With Morris occupying so much of Denver's defensive attention, Simms had more room to throw. In fact, that had been New York's plan all along: Throw play-action passes early on first down against a defense swarming to contain Morris. Then when the defense loosens, spring Morris against an alignment now overconscious of the pass.

In the third quarter, after Parcells's intrepid fourth-down call, things began to work as diagrammed. The Giants' front seven was stifling Elway's options. With Lawrence Taylor on one side and Carl Banks on the other, Denver had no place to run. Elway was throwing virtually every down by then—strategy dictated nothing else—but with waning efficiency.

On the other side, Simms was passing as often as Morris was running. The Broncos could stop neither man, and their cause was turning hopeless. Late in the third quarter, the Giants were ahead 19-10 and had the ball on the Broncos' 45.

Simms took the snap and tossed to Morris, who started left as if on a slant. Morris planted and pivoted back, underhanding to Simms, who looked up and saw reserve wide receiver Phil McConkey open down the left sideline.

McConkey was not the primary receiver, but Simms cut loose anyway. McConkey caught the ball over his shoulder on the dead run at the 20 and advanced to the 1, where he was upended by cornerback Mark Haynes. Morris scored on the next play, and the Giants had a 26-10 command.

The flea-flicker had made two points. One, the hot quarterback no longer was number 7 in white and orange. It was number 11 in blue. And point number two, even though 15:24 remained, New York was the team of destiny.

"We've run that damn thing so many times in practice and never gotten it right," Simms said of the flea-flicker. "Today we didn't even hit the right guy, but it ended the game."

Simms was correct. The game was over. The 15 minutes left in the fourth quarter, the 39-20 final score—those were mere formalities played against a foregone conclusion.

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PRO BOWL

IT'S A LITTLE LATE BUT THIS TIME,
ELWAY GETS A PASSING SCORE

AFC 10, NFC 6

He was the losing quarterback in Super Bowl XXI, but Denver's John Elway was a happy winner in the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl in Honolulu's Aloha Stadium.

Elway's 10-yard touchdown pass to Raiders tight end Todd Christensen and a defense that took the ball away five times led the AFC to a 10-6 victory over the NFC. The NFC had won five of the previous seven games.

"It was good to end the season with a victory," Elway said, one week after the loss to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl. "Our defense came through with the big plays."

"On the touchdown, Christensen did a great job of finding the hole in the zone, and all I had to do was get the ball to him."

The game's most valuable player, however, was not a quarterback but a defensive end—Reggie White of the Philadelphia Eagles. Playing on the losing side, White sacked Elway and fellow AFC quarterback Boomer Esiason of Cincinnati a total of four times.

Elway and the AFC took a 10-0 halftime lead, scoring both the touchdown and Tony Franklin's 26-yard field goal after recovering a pair of fumbled punts by Vai Sikahema, the NFC's rookie kick returner from St. Louis.

Sikahema's first bobble, which set up Elway's touchdown pass, bounced into the arms of Seattle linebacker Fredd Young at the NFC 17. On the touchdown, Christensen was hit by three tacklers at the 1, but reached across the goal line with the ball.

Miami linebacker John Offerdahl recovered Sikahema's second fumble at the AFC 44, and Esiason directed the field goal drive.

Esiason was the game's leading passer, throwing for 105 yards on a 5-for-12 day.

Mistakes continued to frustrate the NFC in the second half. After Morten Andersen of New Orleans sliced the lead to 10-6 with 38- and 19-yard field goals, Eric Dickerson of the Rams scored a potential winning touchdown from the 1-yard line with 8:15 left. The touchdown was nullified, however, by an illegal-motion penalty.

On the next play, a pass by Jay Schroeder of Washington was intercepted in the end zone by safety Lloyd Burruss of Kansas City.

A long NFC drive in the second quarter fizzled when Jacob Green of Seattle recovered a fumble on the AFC 5.

"We just couldn't overcome the mistakes," NFC coach Joe Gibbs of Washington said. "You name it, it just about happened to us."

AFC	7	3	0	0	—10
NFC	0	0	3	3	—6
AFC — Christensen 10 pass from Elway (Franklin kick)					
AFC — FG Franklin 26					
NFC — FG Andersen 38					
NFC — FG Andersen 19					
Attendance — 50,101					



Walter Payton (34) of the NFC takes off on a sweep behind Eric Dickerson (29).

AFC Roster

*Marcus Allen, Raiders	RB
Gary Anderson, Chargers	RB
Chip Banks, Browns	OLB
Keith Bishop, Broncos	G
James Brooks, Bengals	RB
Lloyd Burruss, Chiefs	S
Deron Cherry, Chiefs	S
Todd Christensen, Raiders	TE
Ray Clayborn, Patriots	CB
#Mark Clayton, Dolphins	WR
Hanford Dixon, Browns	CB
Ray Donaldson, Colts	C
*Mark Duper, Dolphins	WR
Bobby Joe Edmonds, Seahawks	KR
John Elway, Broncos	QB
#Boomer Esiason, Bengals	QB
Roy Foster, Dolphins	G
Tony Franklin, Patriots	K
Bob Golic, Browns	NT
Jacob Green, Seahawks	DE
Mike Haynes, Raiders	CB
Chris Hinton, Colts	T
#Earnest Jackson, Steelers	RB
Rulon Jones, Broncos	DE
Steve Largent, Seahawks	WR
Howie Long, Raiders	DE
Bill Maas, Chiefs	NT
*Dan Marino, Dolphins	QB
Karl Mecklenburg, Broncos	ILB
Mike Merriweather, Steelers	OLB
Frank Minnifield, Browns	CB
Max Montoya, Bengals	G
Stanley Morgan, Patriots	WR
#Don Mosebar, Raiders	C
Anthony Muñoz, Bengals	T
John Offerdahl, Dolphins	ILB
Cody Risien, Browns	T
Mickey Shuler, Jets	TE
Dennis Smith, Broncos	S
Rohn Stark, Colts	P
*Dwight Stephenson, Dolphins	C
Mosi Tatupu, Patriots	ST
Andre Tippett, Patriots	OLB
Al Toon, Jets	WR
*Curt Warner, Seahawks	RB
#Sammy Winder, Broncos	RB
Fredd Young, Seahawks	ILB

NFC Roster

Morten Andersen, Saints	K
Mark Bavaro, Giants	TE
Brad Benson, Giants	T
Joey Browner, Vikings	S
Jim Burt, Giants	NT
Harry Carson, Giants	ILB
Gary Clark, Redskins	WR
Jim Covert, Bears	T
Eric Dickerson, Rams	RB
Dave Duerson, Bears	S
Carl Ekern, Rams	ILB
Bill Fralic, Falcons	G
Jerry Gray, Rams	CB
Darrell Green, Redskins	CB
Russ Grimm, Redskins	G
Dennis Harrah, Rams	G
Jay Hilgenberg, Bears	C
LeRoy Irvin, Rams	CB
Rickey Jackson, Saints	OLB
Joe Jacoby, Redskins	T
Steve Jordan, Vikings	TE
Tommy Kramer, Vikings	QB
Sean Landeta, Giants	P
Ronnie Lott, 49ers	S
Dexter Manley, Redskins	DE
Leonard Marshall, Giants	DE
Wilber Marshall, Bears	OLB
*Rueben Mayes, Saints	RB
Steve McMichael, Bears	NT
Art Monk, Redskins	WR
Joe Morris, Giants	RB
Walter Payton, Bears	RB
*Mike Quick, Eagles	WR
Jerry Rice, 49ers	WR
#Gerald Riggs, Falcons	RB
Jay Schroeder, Redskins	QB
Vai Sikahema, Cardinals	KR
Mike Singletary, Bears	ILB
Jackie Slater, Rams	T
Doug Smith, Rams	C
Lawrence Taylor, Giants	OLB
Reggie White, Eagles	DE
Ron Wolfley, Cardinals	ST

*Selected, but did not play.

#Replaced injured player on roster.

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE NFL

1986: THE YEAR OF THE SLEEPER

NFL coaches, personnel directors, and scouts work hard to prepare for the draft each year and feel confident as it approaches that they can predict which college seniors are most likely to succeed. Those players are picked in the first three rounds.

Players selected in the middle rounds (4 through 7) are less highly thought of, and those picked in the late rounds (8 through 12) or signed as free agents are something of a surprise when they make the team.

This makes the 1986 season one of the most surprising in recent memory, because a small flood of middle- and late-round picks and free agents not only came into the league and played, but in many cases started or even starred. There were so many rookies who came out of nowhere to have a big impact that you could call it "The Year of the Sleeper."

The top sleepers of 1986 (in alphabetical order) included:

Greg Baty (New England, tight end, eighth round) had to win the starting job his senior year at Stanford, but he responded with 61 catches. A starter with the Patriots from mid-season on, he finished fourth on the team in receptions with 37. He caught 31 of those passes in the last seven games, including 8 against San Francisco.

Bill Brooks (Indianapolis, wide receiver, fourth round) played college football at a 1-AA school, Boston University. Thus, the 5-foot 11-inch Brooks shocked the NFL last year when he caught 65 passes for 1,131 yards (17.4 average) and 8 touchdowns. He was only the third player in Colts history to surpass 1,000 yards receiving in a season.

Tim Cofield (Kansas City, linebacker, free agent) played college football at Elizabeth City State, wasn't drafted, and didn't even rate a biography in the Chiefs' press guide last year. But he wound up starting 15 games, led the team's linebackers in sacks with 5, led the team in forced fumbles with 4, and made 66 tackles.

Bobby Joe Edmonds (Seattle, kick returner, fifth round) was the second-leading punt returner in Arkansas history when the Seahawks drafted him. He didn't miss a step in the NFL, leading the league in punt returns with a team-record 12.3 average, including a 75-yard runback for a touchdown against the Eagles. He also averaged 22.5 yards on kickoff returns and made the Pro Bowl.

Duane Galloway (Detroit, cornerback, free agent) first signed in the NFL as a free agent with Indianapolis in 1984, after playing at Arizona State, but he didn't make the team. He signed with Detroit in 1985 and spent 14 games on injured reserve with a broken arm.



Vai Sikahema led the NFC in punt returns.

In 1986, the 5-8 Galloway won the starting job at left corner, was sixth on the team in tackles with 66, and intercepted 4 passes.

Don Griffin (San Francisco, cornerback, sixth round) was the ninth player drafted by the 49ers. But the youngster from Middle Tennessee State was named NFC defensive rookie of the year. He started 15 games, intercepted 3 passes, broke up 18, and was fourth on the team in tackles with 72. He averaged 9.9 yards as the punt returner and had a 76-yard scoring runback against Atlanta.

Charles Haley (San Francisco, defensive end, fourth round) was another outstanding 49ers rookie from a small school, James Madison. The fifth player drafted by the team, he was a backup but he led San Francisco in sacks with 12 and forced fumbles with 4 and was the seventh-leading tackler with 59.

Mark Jackson (Denver, wide receiver, sixth round) originally was a walk-on at Purdue, but he was an immediate hit with the AFC champion Broncos, catching 38 passes for a team-leading 19.4 average. With 37 seconds left in the AFC title game against Cleveland, Jackson caught the 5-yard scoring pass from John Elway that sent the game into overtime, where Denver went on to win.

Hassan Jones (Minnesota, wide receiver, fifth round) was the twelfth wide receiver picked in the draft. However, the former Florida State speedster started six games and caught 28 passes for a team-leading 20.4 average. He also scored four touchdowns and had three 100-yard receiving games.

Seth Joyner (Philadelphia, linebacker, eighth round) became the starting right linebacker when a second-round rookie starter, Alonzo Johnson, pulled a hamstring. Joyner, from Texas-El Paso, started the last seven

games and made 44 tackles, had 2 sacks, forced a fumble, and made an interception.

Tim Morrison (Washington, cornerback, free agent) made his first big impact with the Redskins on special teams, where the North Carolina product often was the first man downfield on punts and kickoffs and was fourth on the squad in special-team hits. He also started five games and had 27 tackles and 5 pass deflections.

Chris Sheffield (Pittsburgh, cornerback, free agent) came to the Steelers from Albany State, but started the first six games at left corner when regular Dwayne Woodruff went out with a knee injury. Sheffield then lost a month himself with shoulder and ankle injuries, but returned to play as a backup. He made 27 tackles and broke up 4 passes.

Vai Sikahema (St. Louis, running back, tenth round) led the NFC in punt returns with a 12.1 average and became only the fifth player in NFL history to return two punts for a touchdown in the same game, with 71- and 60-yard runbacks against Tampa Bay. The former Brigham Young running back also averaged 22.9 yards as the team's kickoff returner, caught 10 passes, one for a touchdown, and was voted into the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl.

Jesse Solomon (Minnesota, linebacker, twelfth round) was the 318th player drafted (Florida State), but went on to start four games—one at middle linebacker and three at right linebacker—and finished eighth on the team in tackles with 72. He also recovered 2 fumbles and intercepted 2 passes.

Reyna Thompson (Miami, cornerback, ninth round) has outstanding speed—he set a Southwest Conference high hurdle record at Baylor (13.3)—but he was only an occasional college starter in football. However, he played in all 16 games for the Dolphins and started the last four, making 27 tackles, forcing 2 fumbles, and breaking up 5 passes.

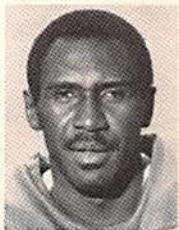
Brent Williams (New England, defensive end, seventh round) stepped right out of Toledo and in with the AFC East-champion Patriots and started all 16 games. He recovered 4 fumbles, returning one of them 21 yards for a touchdown that defeated New Orleans 21-20. He also ranked seventh on the Patriots in tackles with 71 and fourth in sacks with 7.

Larry Williams (Cleveland, guard, tenth round) made the Browns in 1985 after coming out of Notre Dame, and then spent the season on injured reserve with a broken arm. When an injury to starting left tackle Rickey Bolden forced the coaches to juggle the lineup early in 1986, Williams got the call at left guard and started the last 11 games as the Browns won the AFC Central Division title.



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RETIREMENTS



Joiner



Van Note

Charlie Joiner, the leading pass receiver in NFL history, announced his retirement after the 1986 season. An 18-year veteran with three teams, Houston (1969-1972), Cincinnati (1972-75), and San Diego (1976-1986), Joiner caught 750 passes for 12,146 yards, both NFL records. He also had 65 touchdown receptions.

Another 18-year veteran, Atlanta center **Jeff Van Note** (1969-1986), a six-time NFC Pro Bowl selection, also retired after the season, as did 14-year veteran **Tom Jackson** (1973-1986), Denver's three-time AFC Pro Bowl pick at outside linebacker.

Several other top players retired just prior to the 1986 season, including New England guard **John Hannah**, Los Angeles Raiders center **Dave Dalby**, wide receiver **Sammy White** and linebacker **Matt Blair** of Minnesota, and quarterback **Joe Theismann** and running back **John Riggins** of Washington.

Hannah was a nine-time AFC Pro Bowl choice for the Patriots (1973-1985). Dalby started in three Super Bowls and never missed a game in his 14 years with the Raiders (1972-1985). White (1976-1985) is the second-leading receiver in Vikings history with 393 catches and the team's leading touchdown scorer among receivers with 50. Blair (1974-1985) is the second-leading tackler in Vikings history.

Theismann, who played with Toronto in the Canadian Football League (1971-73) and Washington (1974-1985), is the leading passer in Redskins history. Riggins, who played with the New York Jets (1971-75) and Washington (1976-1985), is the fifth-leading rusher and third-leading touchdown scorer in NFL history.

Other players who retired in the last year include: **Barney Chavous**, defensive end, Denver Broncos (1973-1985).

Jim Cooper, offensive tackle, Dallas Cowboys (1977-1986).

Herman Edwards, cornerback, Philadelphia Eagles (1977-1985), Los Angeles Rams (1986), and Atlanta Falcons (1986).

Neil Elshire, defensive end, Minnesota Vikings (1981-86).

Wes Hamilton, offensive guard, Minnesota Vikings (1976-1985).

Pat McNally, punter/wide receiver, Cincinnati Bengals (1976-1985).

Keith Nord, safety, Minnesota Vikings (1979-1985).

Bob Rush, center, San Diego Chargers (1977-1982) and Kansas City Chiefs (1983-85).

Ben Williams, defensive end, Buffalo Bills (1976-1985).

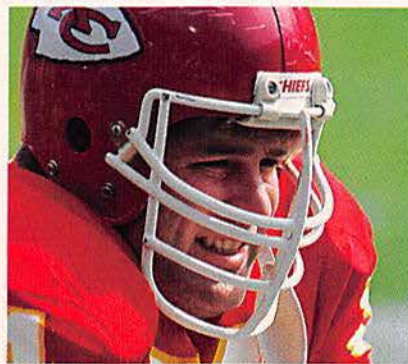
1986 COMEBACK PLAYERS

Charlie Brown (wide receiver, Atlanta) was known as Downtown Brown when he started on the Washington Redskins' Super Bowl teams of 1982-83. In 1984, however, his reception total dropped from 78 to 18 and he was traded to the Falcons. In 1985, he suffered broken ribs and caught just 24 passes. Rebounding in 1986, Brown caught 63 passes for 918 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Jeff Chadwick (wide receiver, Detroit) was leading the Lions in catches with 25 when he broke a collarbone in the ninth game in 1985 and missed the rest of the season. The fourth-year receiver returned in 1986 to have his best season with 53 receptions for 5 touchdowns and an 18.8 average.

Curtis Dickey (running back, Cleveland), who rushed for 1,122 yards for the Colts in 1983, hit bottom in 1985. He gained only 40 yards as a reserve, and he was released in November of that year. Picked up by the Browns, Dickey helped lead Cleveland to the 1986 AFC Championship Game, running for 523 yards and catching 10 passes.

Rick Donnalley (center, Kansas City) started for Washington the last half of 1984 and 12 of the first 13 games in 1985 when regular center Jeff Bostic was benched with a knee injury. But a broken hand and sprained shoulder knocked Donnalley out of the last three games, and, with Bostic healthy in 1986, the Redskins traded Donnalley to Kansas City for a sixth-round draft choice. He won the job from veteran Bob Rush in training camp and started all 16 games.



Rick Donnalley started all 16 games.

Earnest Jackson (running back, Pittsburgh) rushed for more than 1,000 yards in both 1984 and 1985. But the Philadelphia Eagles held him out of the first two games of 1986, and then cut him. Signed by the Steelers in week 4, he rushed for 910 yards the last 13 games. He also caught 17 passes.

Gordon King (offensive tackle, New York Jets) had to wonder if his career might be over when the New York Giants cut him before last season. A long-time Giants starter, King suffered a broken forearm in late 1983 and missed the entire 1984 season. He was a reserve in 1985, before making the Jets in

1986. When right tackle Reggie McElroy went down with a knee injury, King took over in the seventh game and started the rest of the way.

Vernon Maxwell (inside linebacker, Detroit), a former rookie of the year, was released by San Diego in 1985. Picked up by Detroit in the eighth week, he played in nine games but made only 7 tackles. Playing under his former college coach, Darryl Rogers, he bounced back in 1986 to make 106 tackles—third on the team—and also recovered 4 fumbles and broke up 5 passes.



Chuck Nelson scored 110 points.

Chuck Nelson (placekicker, Minnesota) was out of football in 1985 after single seasons with the Los Angeles Rams and Buffalo Bills. Signed by the Vikings in 1986, he finished fourth in the NFL in scoring with 110 points, the most by a Vikings kicker in 16 years. He hit 22 of 28 field-goal attempts.

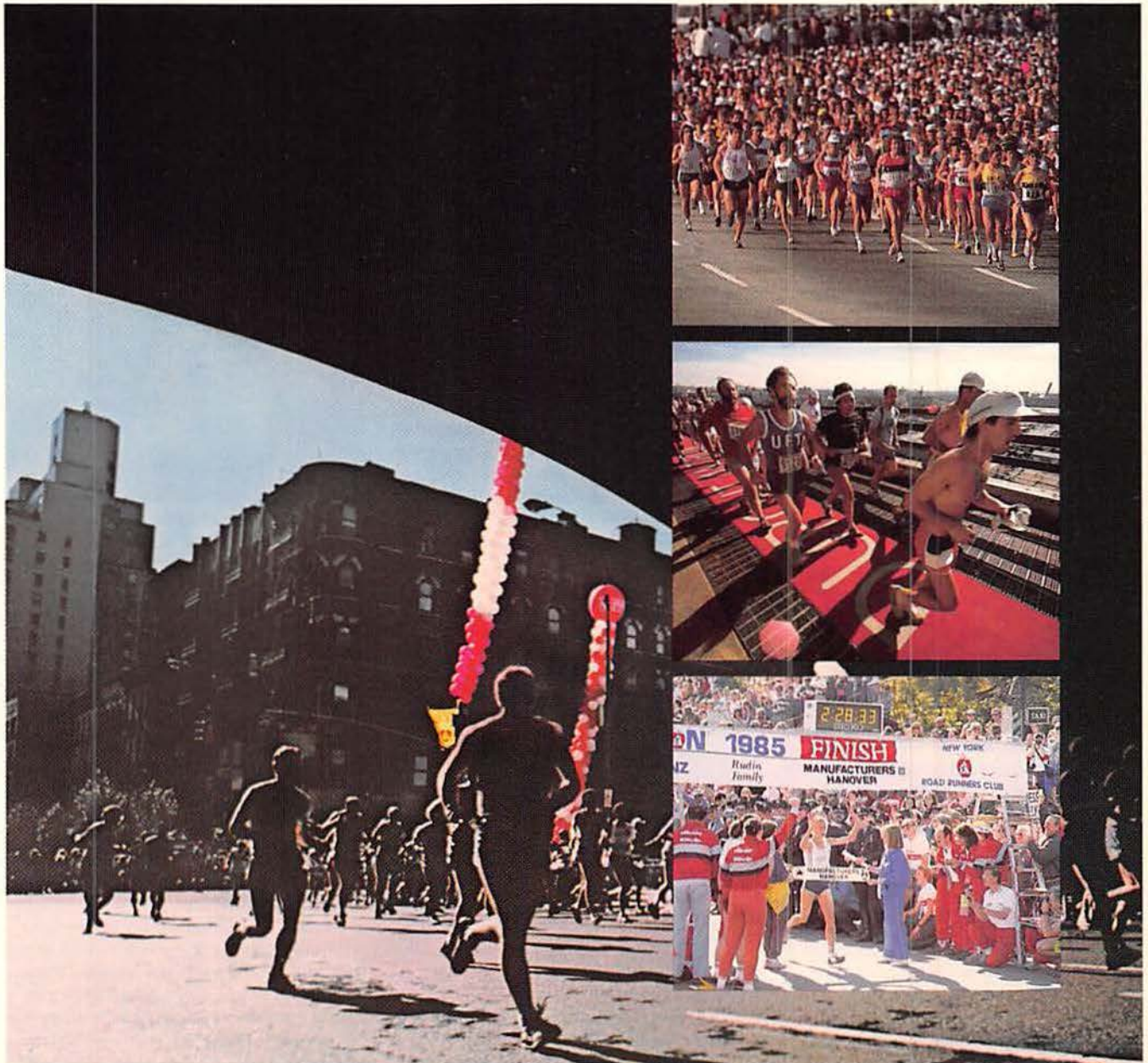
Jerry Robinson (outside linebacker, Los Angeles Raiders), a former all-pro, was traded to the Raiders during the 1985 season and was a reserve the last 11 games, making just 17 tackles. He rebounded to beat out veteran Brad Van Pelt and start every game, was the Raiders' fifth-leading tackler with 76, intercepted 4 passes, and had 2 sacks.

J.T. Smith (wide receiver, St. Louis), a former Pro Bowl punt returner and outstanding receiver, started his comeback in 1985 and finished it with a bang last season. From 1982 to 1984, he caught a total of just 25 passes with Kansas City as he suffered a series of injuries. Signed as a free agent by the Cardinals in 1985, he had 43 receptions. In 1986, however, he broke the team's single-season receiving record with 80 catches for 1,014 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Kellen Winslow (tight end, San Diego), a former consensus all-pro, suffered a serious knee injury in mid-1984 that knocked him out of football for a full year. He played the last 10 games in 1985, catching 25 passes, but didn't score a touchdown. In 1986, he came all the way back with 64 catches, an 11.4 average, and 5 touchdowns.

Mike Minardi

Bill Anstucci



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1986 LATE BLOOMERS



Matt Bouza caught 71 passes.

Brad Benson (offensive tackle, New York Giants) was already a long-time starter, but in 1986 he became a great player. En route to New York's Super Bowl XXI victory, Benson's blocking helped Joe Morris rush for a Giants-record 1,516 yards. He was the only member of the team's interior line voted to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl. In week 14 he became the first offensive lineman ever chosen player of the week when he held NFL sack leader Dexter Manley of Washington to three tackles and no sacks. Benson was a seventh-round draft choice of the New England Patriots in 1977 who was released during training camp and originally was signed by the Giants as a free agent.

Matt Bouza (wide receiver, Indianapolis), a part-time starter, made only 96 catches in his first four seasons with the Colts, with a high of 27 in 1985. Last season he broke out with 71 catches for five touchdowns and was named Colts offensive player of the year.

Earl Ferrell (fullback, St. Louis) had shown flashes of potential in his first four NFL seasons, but in 1986 he rushed for more yards and caught more passes than he had in his first four years combined. As the backfield sidekick of Stump Mitchell, Ferrell ran for 548 yards, averaged 4.4 a carry, and caught 56 passes. He was the Cardinals' second-leading rusher and receiver.

John Grimsley (inside linebacker, Houston) showed promise in his second season, 1985, when he started one game and made 91 tackles for the season. In 1986, however, he was the Oilers' leading tackler, finishing with 199—the most by 27. He averaged 14 tackles a game over the last 12 weeks.

James Harrell (inside linebacker, Detroit) started eight games and made 95 tackles as

a 1979 rookie, then disappeared. For the next six seasons, he started only five games in five years for the Lions and played a year in the USFL. Back in the Detroit lineup in 1986, he made 109 tackles, second on the team, broke up seven passes, and recovered two fumbles.

Ricky Hunley (inside linebacker, Denver) was mainly a reserve and special teams player in his first two years with the Broncos. When he became a starter in 1986, he led the AFC champions in tackles with 164. He also returned an interception 22 yards, forced two fumbles, and recovered another.

Robb Riddick (running back, Buffalo) was having a forgettable NFL career before 1986. In five previous seasons, he not only gained just 50 yards rushing and caught just 26 passes, but also missed two full years with knee injuries, including all of 1985. He came back and led the Bills in rushing with 632 yards and tied for second on the team in receiving with 49 catches.

Andre Waters (strong safety, Philadelphia) was a reserve and special teams player in his first two years with the Eagles. In 1986, he became one of the best defensive backs in the NFL. He led Philadelphia in interceptions (six), fumble recoveries (three) and forced fumbles (three), was second on the team in tackles (125), and, for good measure, broke up 11 passes and blocked a punt.

Randy Wright (quarterback, Green Bay) was a sixth-round draft choice who spent a lot of time watching in his first two seasons, completing just 27 and 39 passes. Last year, he took over as the starter and threw for 3,247 yards, third-highest single-season total in Packers history. He also passed for 17 touchdowns.



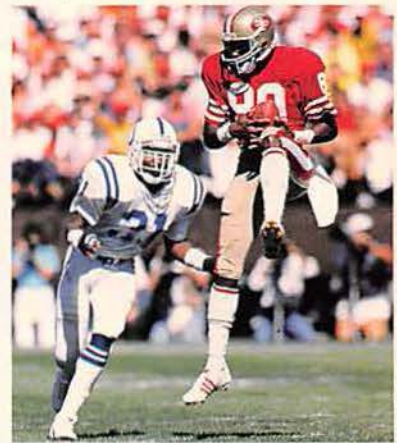
Andre Waters had six interceptions.

1986 ALL-PRO TEAM

Selected by *Associated Press*, *Newspaper Enterprise Association*, and *Professional Football Writers Association*.

Offense

Jerry Rice, San Francisco	WR
Al Toon, N.Y. Jets	WR
Mark Bavaro, N.Y. Giants	TE
Todd Christensen, L.A. Raiders	TE
Anthony Muñoz, Cincinnati	T
Jim Covert, Chicago	T
Brian Holloway, New England	T
Bill Fralic, Atlanta	G
Russ Grimm, Washington	G
Dennis Harrah, L.A. Rams	G
Dwight Stephenson, Miami	C
Dan Marino, Miami	QB
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants	QB
Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams	RB
Joe Morris, N.Y. Giants	RB
Morten Andersen, New Orleans	K
Dennis Gentry, Chicago	KR
Bobby Joe Edmonds, Seattle	PR



The 49ers' Jerry Rice.

Defense

Dexter Manley, Washington	DE
Rulon Jones, Denver	DE
Dan Hampton, Chicago	DE
Reggie White, Philadelphia	DT
Steve McMichael, Chicago	DT
Michael Carter, San Francisco	NT
Bill Pickel, L.A. Raiders	NT
Lawrence Taylor, N.Y. Giants	OLB
Wilber Marshall, Chicago	OLB
Rickey Jackson, New Orleans	OLB
Karl Mecklenburg, Denver	ILB
Mike Singletary, Chicago	ILB
Hanford Dixon, Cleveland	CB
LeRoy Irvin, L.A. Rams	CB
Darrell Green, Washington	CB
Ronnie Lott, San Francisco	S
Deron Cherry, Kansas City	S
Dave Duerson, Chicago	S
Dennis Smith, Denver	S
Sean Landeta, N.Y. Giants	P
Rohn Stark, Indianapolis	P

George Rose

Owen Shaw

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1987 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Al Messersmith

The Class of 1987 is introduced at the Pro Bowl (from left): Len Dawson, John Henry Johnson, Don Maynard, Gene Upshaw, Jim Langer, Joe Greene, and Larry Csonka.

Seven ex-players, all of whom retired within the last 25 years, will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August in Canton, Ohio. In alphabetical order they include:

Larry Csonka (6-3, 235) rushed for 8,081 yards and scored 68 touchdowns in his 11-year NFL career with the Miami Dolphins and New York Giants. The powerful fullback was at his best from 1970 to 1974, when he was named to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl five seasons in a row and led the Dolphins to four AFC East titles, three AFC championships, and two Super Bowl victories.

Csonka topped the Dolphins in rushing each of those five seasons and rushed for more than 1,000 yards in 1971, 1972, and 1973, averaging just over five yards a carry during that span. When Miami stopped Washington and Minnesota in Super Bowls VII and VIII, respectively, he ran for 112 and 145 yards, winning most valuable player honors in Super Bowl VIII. In 1979, Csonka, then 32, rushed for 827 yards for the Dolphins and was named NFL comeback player of the year.

Len Dawson (6-0, 190) led the Kansas City Chiefs to a 23-7 surprise of the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV in the last game between the AFL and NFL before the merger in 1970. His career spanned 19 years, 14 of them as the starting quarterback for the Chiefs and Dallas Texans.

Dawson led the AFL in passing four times — 1962, 1964, 1966, and 1968 — and quarterbacked the Texans/Chiefs to three AFL titles (1962, 1966, and 1969) and one AFC Western Division title (1971). He was named the most valuable player in Super Bowl IV, completing 12 of 17 passes, including one for 46 yards and a touchdown.

A three-time Big Ten passing leader at Purdue, Dawson had spent five years as a backup with Pittsburgh and Cleveland, before head coach Hank Stram gave him a chance with the Dallas Texans in 1962. He not only led the Texans to the AFL title his first year, but also topped the league in passing and was named player of the year. In his career, Dawson passed for 239 touchdowns and complet-

ed 57.1 percent of his attempts.

Joe Greene (6-4, 270) was known as Mean Joe Greene when he terrorized offenses as an all-pro defensive tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1969 to 1981. He helped lead Pittsburgh to four Super Bowl victories (IX, X, XIII, and XIV).

Gifted with speed, quickness, strength, and great determination, Greene (from North Texas State) was the first player picked in the draft by new head coach Chuck Noll in 1969. In his first season he was named NFL rookie of the year and voted to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl squad. He wound up going to the Pro Bowl 10 times in his 13-year career.

In his early years, Greene could dominate a game all by himself. In a 9-3 victory over Houston in 1972, he had five sacks, blocked a field goal, and recovered a fumble to set up a Steelers field goal. He was named the NFL's most valuable defensive player in both 1972 and 1974. In 1987, he was named as an assistant coach on Noll's Pittsburgh staff.

John Henry Johnson (6-2, 215) is the fourth member of the San Francisco 49ers' "Million Dollar Backfield" of 1954 to be elected to the Hall of Fame, joining Y.A. Tittle, Hugh McElhenny, and Joe Perry. In 13 seasons with the 49ers, Detroit Lions, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Houston Oilers, Johnson rushed for 6,803 yards. It was the fourth-best total in history when he retired after the 1966 season.

Johnson not only was a fast, elusive fullback, but he also was an outstanding blocker. He even played defensive back and middle guard early in his pro career.

After three years with the 49ers, he was traded to Detroit in 1957, where he helped lead the Lions to the 1957 NFL title, finishing fourth in the league in rushing. In six seasons with Pittsburgh (1960-65), he became the first Steelers player to rush for 1,000 yards, gaining 1,141 in 1962 and 1,048 in 1964 at age 35. In a 23-7 victory over the 1964 Cleveland Browns, who were on their way to the NFL championship, Johnson ran for 200 yards, including touchdown runs of 33, 45, and 5

yards. He finished with Houston in 1966.

Jim Langer (6-2, 253) joins Csonka, his Miami teammate, as a Hall of Fame inductee. Langer spent 10 seasons with the Dolphins and two with the Minnesota Vikings. Dolphins head coach Don Shula insisted he was the best center in NFL history.

A free agent guard who was cut by the Cleveland Browns in 1970, Langer came to Miami, where he was moved to the starting center job in 1972 and played every offensive down as the Dolphins finished 17-0 and won Super Bowl VII. When Miami repeated as Super Bowl champions in 1973, he was chosen to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl for the first of six successive seasons. He was all-pro four times.

Quick and agile, Langer also was very durable. He played in 141 consecutive games, including three AFC championship games and three Super Bowls.

Don Maynard (6-1, 180) was the first player ever signed by the AFL New York Titans, the forerunners of the Jets, in 1960. He had played for the New York Giants in 1958 and with Hamilton in the Canadian Football League in 1959. When his career ended in 1973, he was the leading pass receiver in history with 633 catches. He still ranks fourth on the all-time list and is second in both reception yards (11,834) and touchdown catches (88). He also holds the NFL record for 100-yard receiving games (50).

In his first five seasons with the Titans/Jets, the sure-handed wide receiver worked with no less than 25 quarterbacks before Joe Namath arrived in 1965. The two became a standout combination. In 1968, Maynard averaged 22.8 yards on 57 catches, and the Jets went on to stun Baltimore 16-7 in Super Bowl III. A sprinter at Texas Western (now University of Texas-El Paso), Maynard had a pro career average of 18.7 yards a catch.

When the AFL merged with the NFL after the 1969 season, he was chosen to the AFL's all-time team.

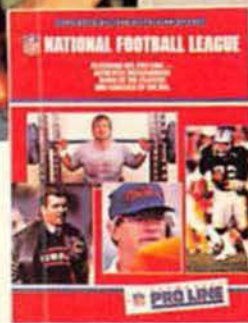
Gene Upshaw (6-5, 255) was one of the most durable players in NFL history. In 15 seasons as the Oakland Raiders' left guard, he started all but one game, a regular-season streak of 207 games in a row from his first season to midway through his last one. He also started 24 postseason games, including 10 AFL and AFC championship games.

In Upshaw's years with the Raiders, the team won or tied for nine divisional titles, finished second four other times, and went to three Super Bowls, winning two of them (XI and XV). Upshaw was named all-AFL or all-pro five times, and from 1973-78 he played in six consecutive AFC-NFC Pro Bowls. He had great speed for a lineman and was at his most devastating pulling to lead Raiders' sweeps. Upshaw currently is the executive director of the NFL Players Association.

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NEW COACHES



Marion Campbell



Frank Gansz



Marv Levy



Ron Meyer



Ray Perkins



Al Saunders

The NFL will start the 1987 season with three new head coaches on the sidelines. There also will be three more who took over during 1986. The six newest head coaches:

Marion Campbell, 58, begins his second tenure as coach of the Atlanta Falcons. He was the team's defensive coordinator last season as Atlanta went from twenty-fifth to seventh in team defense, allowing 172 fewer points than in 1985. He also was head coach of the Falcons from mid-1974 through the first five games of 1976 and head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles from 1983 through 15 games of 1985. His six-year NFL record is 24-48-1.

When Campbell was defensive coordinator of the Eagles (1977-1982), Philadelphia gave up the fewest points in the NFL and went to Super Bowl XV. He also played eight years in the NFL as a defensive tackle (two with San Francisco, six with Philadelphia) and was a two-time Pro Bowl selection.

Frank Gansz, 48, takes over the Kansas City Chiefs, after serving as assistant head coach and special teams coach last year, and helping the Chiefs (10-6) to the playoffs for the first time in 15 years. Gansz's special teams blocked a team-record 10 kicks and scored five touchdowns.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he played guard, center, and linebacker, Gansz spent eight years before last season as an assistant with San Francisco, Cincinnati, Kansas City (in 1981-82), and Philadelphia. In college football, he was an assis-

tant with Air Force, Colgate, Navy, Oklahoma State, Army, and UCLA.

Marv Levy, 59, became coach of the Buffalo Bills in week 10 last season and turned in a 2-5 record the last seven weeks. This is his seventh head coaching position and fourth in pro football. In five years with the Montreal Alouettes (1973-77) of the Canadian Football League, his teams went 50-34-4 and reached the Grey Cup finals three times, winning twice. He also was coach of the Kansas City Chiefs for five seasons (1978-1982), the team going 31-42, and spent one year with Chicago of the USFL (5-13 in 1984).

Levy has a master's degree in English history from Harvard and also has held head coaching jobs at New Mexico, California, and William & Mary.

Ron Meyer, 46, was the only unbeaten coach in the NFL last year. He was hired by the Indianapolis Colts when they had an 0-13 record, and he then coached the team to successive victories over Atlanta, Buffalo, and the Los Angeles Raiders for a 3-0 finish.

Meyer was coach of the New England Patriots from 1982 to mid-1984, turning in an 18-15 record with a team that was 2-14 the year before he took over. He had two college head coaching jobs, spending three years at Nevada-Las Vegas (27-8) and six at Southern Methodist (34-31-1). His 1981 SMU team went 10-1 and won the Southwest Conference championship.

Ray Perkins, 45, tries to rebuild the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, after a successful four-year tenure as head coach and athletic director at Alabama. The Crimson Tide were 32-15-1 and won three bowl games under Perkins, going 9-2-1 and 10-3 his last two seasons. This is Perkins's second stop as an NFL head coach. He had a 24-35 record with the New York Giants from 1979-1982. The 1981 team went 9-7 and was the first Giants team to make the playoffs in 18 years.

A 1966 All-America receiver at Alabama, Perkins spent five years as a wide receiver with the Baltimore Colts, playing in Super Bowls III and V.

Al Saunders, 40, the youngest head coach in the NFL, took over the San Diego Chargers in week 9 last season. San Diego was 1-7 at the time, but went 3-5 down the stretch, including a 9-3 upset of AFC champion Denver on the road. Saunders joined the Chargers as the receivers coach in 1983 and was elevated to assistant head coach before the 1986 season.

Only the third foreign-born head coach in the NFL (London), Saunders was a four-year starter at defensive back for San Jose State and earned a master's degree in education from Stanford. In addition, he's working on a doctorate in athletic administration and sports management. He was an assistant at USC, Missouri, Utah State, California, and Tennessee.

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OBITUARIES

Quarterback **Bobby Layne** and defensive back **Jack Christiansen**, Pro Football Hall of Fame members and teammates on three NFL Championship teams in Detroit, both died in the past year.



Layne passed for 26,768 yards and 196 touchdowns and ran for 2,451 yards and 25 scores in a 15-year NFL career that included seasons with the

Chicago Bears (1948), New York Bulldogs (1949), Detroit Lions (1950-58), and Pittsburgh Steelers (1958-1962). He led the Lions to NFL titles in 1952, 1953, and 1957.



Christiansen spent his entire playing career with Detroit (1951-58), intercepting 46 passes and scoring 11 touchdowns (eight as a punt returner, an NFL career record that still stands). He was also head coach of the San Francisco 49ers (1963-67) and was an assistant with the 49ers (1959-1963), Kansas City Chiefs (1977), Seattle Seahawks (1978-1982), and Atlanta Falcons (1983).

Others associated with pro football who died in the past year included:

John Alexander, tackle-linebacker, Milwaukee (1922); New York Giants (1926).
Larry Bethea, defensive tackle, Dallas (1978-1983).
Jim Braxton, fullback, Buffalo (1971-78); Miami (1978).

Jules (Zuck) Carlson, guard, Chicago Bears (1929-1936); Chicago Cardinals (1937).

Joe Childress, fullback, Chicago Cardinals (1956-59); St. Louis Cardinals (1960, 1962-65).

Tommy Davis, kicker, San Francisco (1959-1969).
John Dell Isola, guard, New York Giants (1934-1940); assistant coach, Boston Yanks (1943-45), New York Giants (1957-59), New York Titans (1960-62).

Nello Falaschi, quarterback, New York Giants (1938-1941).

Gary Famiglietti, fullback, Chicago Bears (1938-1945); Boston Yanks (1946).

Wilson Faumula, defensive tackle, Atlanta (1977-1981).

Roy (Monk) Gafford, halfback, Miami Seahawks (All-America Football Conference, 1946); Brooklyn Dodgers (AAFC, 1946-48).

Matt Hazeltine, linebacker, San Francisco (1955-1968); New York Giants (1970).

Joe Kopcha, guard, Chicago Bears (1929, 1932-35); Detroit (1936).

Gary Lewis, fullback, San Francisco (1964-69); New Orleans (1970).

John Leypoldt, kicker, Buffalo (1971-76); Seattle (1976-78); New Orleans (1978).

Carl (Spider) Lockhart, safety, New York Giants (1965-1975).

Clinton W. (Clint) Murchison, owner, Dallas Cowboys (1960-1984).

Urban Odson, tackle, Green Bay (1946-49).

Frederick D. (Fritz) Pollard, halfback, Akron (1920-21, 1925-26); Milwaukee (1922); Hammond (1923-25); Providence (1925); coach with Hammond (1923-25) and Akron (1920-21, 1925-26).

Don Rogers, safety Cleveland (1984-85).

Norbert N. Sacksteder, halfback, Dayton (1920, 1925); Detroit Panthers (1921); Canton (1922, 1925).

Tom Sestak, defensive tackle, Buffalo (1962-68).

Johnny (Big Train) Sisk, halfback, Chicago Bears (1932-36).

Jerry Smith, tight end, Washington (1965-1977).

Amerigo (Tony) Tonelli, center, Detroit (1939).

John Tuggle, running back, New York Giants (1983-85).

Clarence (Clancy) Williams, cornerback, Los Angeles Rams (1965-1972).

PROGRESS REPORT

How First-Round Draft Choices of 1986 Fared

- Bo Jackson** (Tampa Bay)
- Tony Casillas** (Atlanta)
- Jim Everett** (Houston)
- Jon Hand** (Indianapolis)
- Anthony Bell** (St. Louis)
- Jim Dombrowski** (New Orleans)
- Brian Jozwiak** (Kansas City)
- Leslie O'Neal** (San Diego)
- John Rienstra** (Pittsburgh)
- Keith Byars** (Philadelphia)
- Joe Kelly** (Cincinnati)
- Chuck Long** (Detroit)
- James FitzPatrick** (San Diego)
- Gerald Robinson** (Minnesota)
- John L. Williams** (Seattle)
- Ronnie Harmon** (Buffalo)
- Tim Green** (Atlanta)
- Mike Sherrard** (Dallas)
- Eric Dorsey** (New York Giants)
- Will Wolford** (Buffalo)
- Tim McGee** (Cincinnati)
- Mike Haight** (New York Jets)
- Mike Schad** (Los Angeles Rams)
- Bob Buczkowski** (Los Angeles Raiders)
- Roderick Jones** (Tampa Bay)
- Reggie Dupard** (New England)
- Neal Anderson** (Chicago Bears)

RB (Auburn) Signed with baseball's Kansas City Royals.

NT (Oklahoma) Started all 16 games. Fourth on team with 111 tackles.

QB (Purdue) Traded to L.A. Rams. Started 5 games, passed for 1,018 yards, 8 TDs.

DE (Alabama) Started 15 games. Fifth on team with 82 tackles, second in sacks with 5.

OLB (Michigan State) Started 1 game, played in all 16. Had 44 tackles, 4 sacks.

T (Virginia) Started first 3 games. Broke foot, missed rest of season.

GT (West Virginia) Played in 15 games, mostly on special teams.

DE (Oklahoma State) Started 13 games before undergoing knee surgery. When hurt, led team with 82 tackles, 12½ sacks. NFL defensive rookie of year.

G (Temple) Started 4 of first 5 games. Had foot surgery, missed rest of season.

RB (Ohio State) Started 8 games, played in all 16. Set Eagles rookie rushing record with 577 yards.

ILB (Washington) Started 7 games, played in all 16. Made 35 tackles.

QB (Iowa) Started last 2 games. Completed 21 of 40 passes for 247 yards, 2 TDs.

T (USC) Played in 4 games on special teams.

DE (Auburn) Started 4 games, played in 8 others. Had 26 tackles, 3½ sacks, 1 blocked punt.

RB (Florida) Started all 16 games. Ran for 538 yards, caught 33 passes.

RB (Iowa) Started 2 games. Fourth on team in rushing with 172 yards, caught 22 passes.

ILB (Syracuse) Started 1 game, played in 10 others. Made 14 tackles, 12 as starter in last game.

WR (UCLA) Started last 4 games, played in all 16. Had 41 catches for 744 yards, 5 TDs.

DE (Notre Dame) Played in all 16 games. Made 5 tackles. Had 3 sacks in playoffs.

G (Vanderbilt) Started all 16 games.

WR (Tennessee) Played in all 16 games. Had 16 catches, 1 TD. Second-leading kickoff returner in AFC (23.4 average).

GT (Iowa) Played in 2 games as a backup.

T (Queen's, Canada) Spent season on injured reserve with back injury.

DE (Pittsburgh) Spent season on injured reserve, following back surgery.

CB (SMU) Started all 16 games. Fourth on team with 80 tackles, led team in passes defended (14), had 1 interception.

RB (SMU) Missed 11 games with toe injury. Played 5 games, rushing for 39 yards.

RB (Florida) Started 1 game, played in 13 others. Rushed for 146 yards, had 58-yard touchdown catch.

(Note: There were only 27 first-round picks, because Cleveland used its choice picking Bernie Kosar in the 1985 supplemental draft.)

1986 NFL AWARDS

Pro Football Writers Association

Most Valuable Player Lawrence Taylor
Rookie of the Year Rueben Mayes
Coach of the Year Bill Parcells

Associated Press

Most Valuable Player Lawrence Taylor
Offensive Player of the Year Eric Dickerson
Defensive Player of the Year Lawrence Taylor
Rookie of the Year—Offense Rueben Mayes
Rookie of the Year—Defense Leslie O'Neal
Coach of the Year Bill Parcells

United Press International

Offensive Player of the Year Curt Warner (AFC)
Eric Dickerson (NFC)
Defensive Player of the Year Rulon Jones (AFC)
Lawrence Taylor (NFC)
Coach of the Year Marty Schottenheimer (AFC)
Bill Parcells (NFC)

Newspaper Enterprise Association

Jim Thorpe Memorial Trophy (MVP) Phil Simms
Rookie of the Year Rueben Mayes
George Halas Trophy
(Defensive Player of the Year) Lawrence Taylor

The Sporting News

Player of the Year Lawrence Taylor
Rookie of the Year Rueben Mayes
Coach of the Year Bill Parcells

Football News

Coach of the Year Marty Schottenheimer (AFC)
Bill Parcells (NFC)

Player of the Year Karl Mecklenburg (AFC)
Joe Morris (NFC)

Pro Football Weekly

Offensive Player of the Year Jerry Rice
Defensive Player of the Year Lawrence Taylor
Coach of the Year Bill Parcells
Offensive Rookie of the Year Rueben Mayes
Defensive Rookie of the Year John Offerdahl
Leslie O'Neal

College and Pro Football Newsweekly

Coach of the Year Bill Parcells

Football Digest

Player of the Year Lawrence Taylor
Coach of the Year Bill Parcells

Maxwell Club

Player of the Year
(Bert Bell Trophy) Lawrence Taylor

Lite Beer / NFL Lineman of the Year

Offense Jim Covert
Defense Howie Long

Old Spice NFL

Rookie of the Year John Offerdahl

Super Bowl XXI Most Valuable Player

(Selected by Sport Magazine) Phil Simms

AFC-NFC Pro Bowl

Player of the Game
(Dan McGuire Award) Reggie White



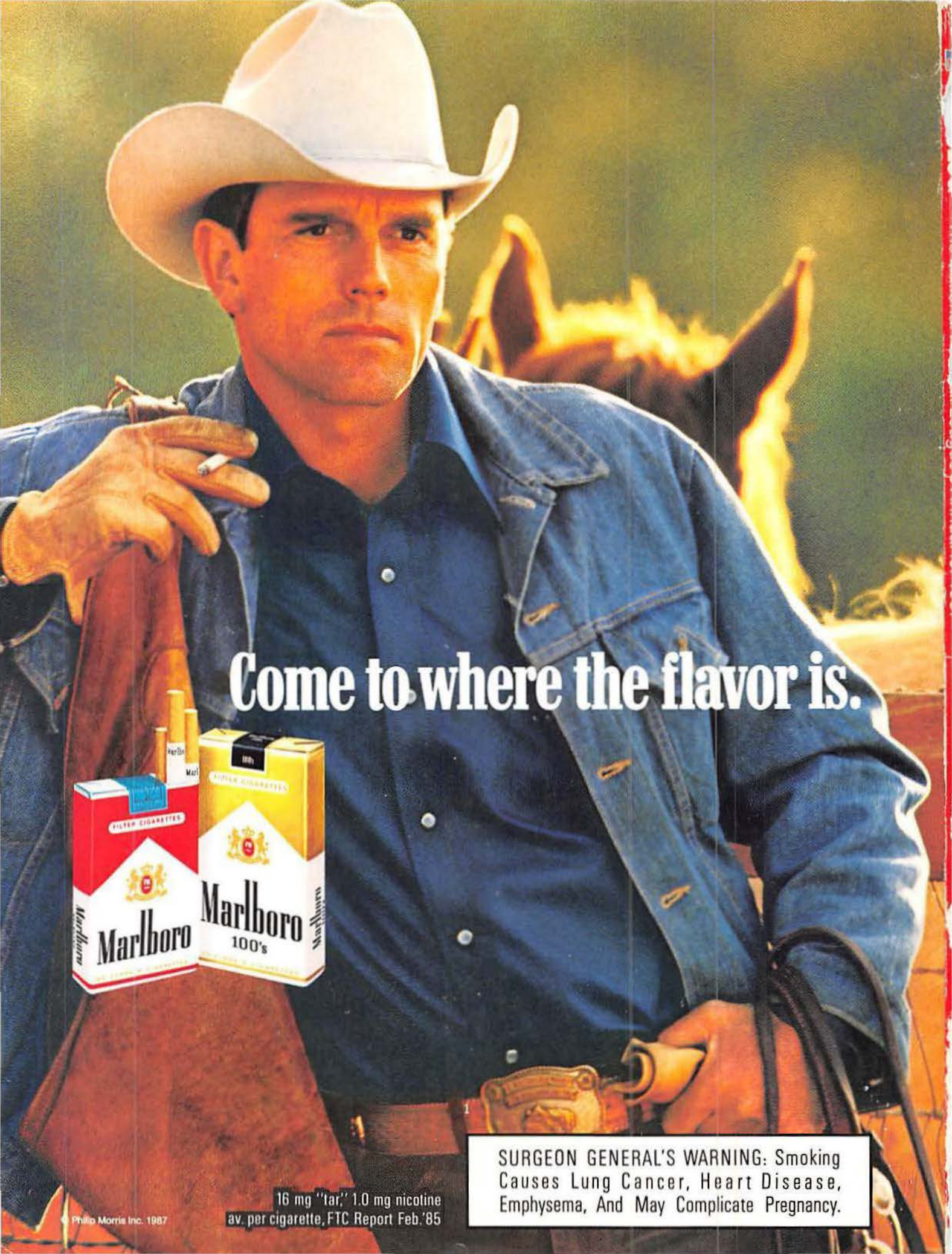
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